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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



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£1M BOOST FOR SPORT FACILITIES

PLANS for a new sports centre in South Willesborough have been given the green light from council bosses.

The development would include space for meetings, a crèche, sports pitches and changing rooms for the games area on the recreation ground.

The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) which will cost nearly £1m to build will be erected on land near the Swan Centre on Cudworth Road. A substantial amount of the budget for the sports facility comes from a 106 agreement (in which developers pay for community facilities) with Fairview Homes.

■ BY ED HILL

It was put in place when the developer was granted planning permission for its Bushy Royds development nearby.

The rest of the money will come from Kent County Council, which will also sign a 25 year maintenance agreement.

Three hundred local residents were consulted about what they would like to see at the site with the sports centre gaining large support. It is hoped the new building will benefit young people in South Willesborough which has been identified as an area in need of services for young people.

Ashford council says the new build-

ing would not affect its already tight revenue budget for sports facilities as seen in the recent crisis over the Julie Rose stadium as most of the money for day-to-day running of the centre will come from the Government's Surestart programme.

A planning application was submitted last month and work is expected to start in the autumn with the centre being completed eight months later.

Portfolio holder for cultural services Cllr Jerry Clarkson MBE said: "This project is an excellent example of inter-agency partnership working to make best use of the resources available locally."



MUMBA SHOWS OFF HER BABY

Port Lympne Animal Park has a tiny new member of its Gorilla family. The two-week-old youngster has just started to appear in front of visitors with his mother Mumba.

It marks a major success for Aspinall Foundation parks - four weeks ago another male gorilla, Nkoumou, was born at Howletts park near Canterbury.

The father of the new baby is 27-year-old Djala, who was rescued from the Congo - he has sired 26 babies.

Head of the gorilla Section at Port Lympne, Phil Ridges said: "Everyone was pleased to see that Mumba had a successful labour and both mother and baby are doing very well."

The Aspinall Foundation continues its programme of returning captive-bred gorillas to Africa in the Congo and Gabon.

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2 The intriguing discovery of a dice tower at Richborough Roman Fort. Search 'dice' on the community channel



3 Enjoy the work of the Folkestone Art Society's spring exhibition. Search 'Folkestone'

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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BLOOD BROTHERS: Ashford has strong links with the Gurkha community

Commons vote too late for one Gurkha veteran

A LEADING member of Ashford's Gurkha community has revealed that one of his members – whose settlement application was still pending – died the day after last week's House of Commons vote.

Gomba Sherpa, chairman of the Sagarmatha Gurkha Community, said: "He applied in 2006. This was very sad news for us, but it is not an unusual situation."

The 62-year-old man's case is matched by many others in the Gurkha community.

Mr Sherpa said: "We still have lots of members waiting for their cases to be dealt with and we are just ignored by the Home Office."

"They have no right to live and work here and this causes a lot of stress. They cannot find a job and have to be supported by their family."

About 1,000 members of the Nepalese community live in Ashford. Many have settled here after their time with the Army, but automatic settlement rights only apply to those who have retired since 1997.

■ BY ED HILL

The Government did agree to allow more former soldiers to live in the UK but only if they met certain criteria.

Mr Sherpa said: "The Government's original policy made it very difficult. It meant only officers and those with certain criteria could remain. It did not apply to the ordinary soldier. It divided the Nepalese community."

Last Wednesday the Government was defeated in an Opposition Day vote in the Commons and will now have to reconsider its policy. Many Gurkhas from Ashford travelled to London to take part in a rally in Westminster last week. Ashford's Gurkhas now hope the decision will mean a more secure future for them in the UK.

Mr Sherpa said: "This has been an amazing result and we are hopeful things will now change. We have fought loyalty for this country for nearly 200 years. We are very grateful to the local people who have helped our cause."

Ashford has close links with the Gurkhas. North School has more than 100 pupils whose fathers serve or served with the British Army.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuke plant concerns

A CAMPAIGN group has raised concerns that the expansion of Ashford International Airport in Lydd could jeopardise plans for a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.

Lydd Airport Action Group wants to halt plans for a runway extension and new terminal at the Romney Marsh site.

Spokeswoman Louise Barton said: "If the expansion goes ahead it could jeopardise the planning application for Dungeness C."

The Government has confirmed Dungeness is a possible site for a new nuclear power station.

Airport managing director Cliff Spink said: "LAAG wants to stop private investment, which is madness given the UK's economic situation."

Flu pandemic advice

INVICTA Chamber of Commerce has advised Ashford businesses on how to deal with the impact of swine flu.

The chamber issued advice after the World Health Organisation raised the threat level of the virus to level four.

The website advises business travellers to check the situation in the country they are travelling to with the Foreign Office, or to check with a doctor if they have specific concerns.

A year in the square

DEBENHAMS in County Square welcomed shoppers with a summer promotion last week.

Ashford's first department store has just marked its first year since opening. Shoppers were given the chance to have a makeover and take up special offers. A raffle was also held for Demelza children's hospice. Visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk to learn more.

Winners are all heart

BRABOURNE Lees post office has won the regional Heart of the Community Award.

It was nominated by villagers because of its contribution to the community and charity fundraising.

A Post Office official said: "These awards recognise the exceptional staff in our branches across the UK."

The branch will now go through to the national awards later this month.

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Ben's friends to highlight street violence scourge

■ BY ED HILL

FRIENDS of Ben Neilson, the student who died in Ashford town centre, say they want to take part in a charity event to raise awareness of street violence.

The 21-year-old had returned to his home town from Newcastle, where he was studying to be a quantity surveyor. His body was found in the alleyway next to the Mecca bingo hall in the early hours of Tuesday, April 21.

He had spent the first part of the evening with friends at the Liquid nightclub on East Hill.

He was taken to hospital with serious head injuries but after a week his parents, Barbara and Edward, of Essella Road, Willesborough, agreed with doctors to switch off his life-support machine.

Now they have expressed their grief over the loss of their son. In a statement they said: "Our family would like to express their thanks to the William Harvey Hospital and the Royal London Hospital for their kind support and the compassionate care they gave to Ben."

"We are overwhelmed by the kindness and support that family and friends have shown to us in this distressing time. We are devastated at our loss of a bright, beautiful young man whose life has been cruelly cut short."

Now his friends on the internet site Facebook say they want to organise an event either to raise money for charity or to pay for a bench in the town in his memory.



TRAGIC LOSS: Family and friends have paid tribute to Ben Neilson, who died after sustaining serious head injuries

The group, which has more than 800 members, was set up as a tribute to the former Norton Knatchbull pupil.

The case has raised questions about the safety of the town centre at night. Many of Mr Neilson's friends say young people in the town go out with the intention of committing violence.

Andrew Frost said: "One of the worst problems with Ashford is people's thought process that having a pointless fight or beating someone is a way of boosting a needless reputation. The general perception for some in Ashford is to go out

get smashed then fight someone to boost their ego. It's sad to have a friend fall victim to this."

They are now considering an event such as a sponsored hike or selling wristbands highlighting the problem of street violence often caused by alcohol. Two men have been remanded in custody in relation to the assault. Zion Andrew Covey, 21, of Lynsted Close, and Gareth David Powell, 19, from Bensted, both in Stanhope.

They are expected to appear at Maidstone Crown Court on May 11 for committal proceedings.

Infrastructure projects with cash injection

SUPERFAST broadband and an arts centre are just two of the Ashford projects set to benefit from a massive council spending programme funded by the Government.

The £42.1m, secured from the Grant Area Fund and the Community Infrastructure Fund, will pay for improving the railway station forecourt, a new bus transport system called Smartlink, an arts centre at St Mary's Church, the Gateway Plus library building and fibre optic broadband across the town.

The programme was agreed at a meeting of the executive last week after proposals from the development body Ashford's Future.

The plans to spend the cash have been reviewed to take into account the impact of the economic slowdown and deliver projects most likely to encourage further private investment to the town.

Other projects include a new cycle and footbridge over the M20 to link Kennington and Eureka Park; a new A28 junction at Brookfield Road as part of the Victoria Way scheme; and the acquisition of key sites and buildings for future development.

Ram-raider snared by DNA on screen

A RAM-RAIDER who targeted cash machines at three village shops, including one in Wye, has been jailed for six years.

Nelson Hilden, of Gallants Lane, East Farleigh, was arrested in December after forensic teams found his DNA on a smashed windscreen of a stolen four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The 4x4 was one of two that had been used by Hilden and others in three ram-raids in Wye, Lyminge and Lenham, between 1.18am and 2.26am on December 12, 2008.

Police found the vehicle abandoned moments after they lost sight of it during a high-speed chase from the gang's last ram-raid.

One of the stolen vehicles crashed into a patrol car, injuring a police officer in the passenger seat.

Hilden, 49, was sentenced to two and a half years for attempting to steal a cash machine at a store in Lyminge; six years for a second failed attempt at a Co-op store in Wye; and six years for a third attempt at a convenience store in Lenham, all to run concurrently.



RAIDED: Workmen repair the Wye shop targeted by Nelson Hilden, left, and his gang

Sentencing Hilden at Maidstone Crown Court, the judge said it was clear he was "part of a team using stolen vehicles intent on stealing from vulnerable premises."

Hilden and his gang caused more than £100,000 of damage by ramming into the shop fronts and crashing into parked cars.

Detective Inspector Tom Richards of Kent Police said: "They targeted businesses at the heart of the community leaving disruption and damage in their wake."

Summer fun run

A FUN run is to be held this summer at Conningbrook Lakes, next to the Julie Rose Stadium.

It is hoped it will be the first of many events broadening the use of the area and boosting income for the venue.

At a full meeting of Ashford council, members questioned the ruling Tories on the situation that led to the stadium's funding crisis at the end of March.

The Three Lakes 5k Charity Run on June 7 is being organised by Pod Plus, the sports shop and clinic at the stadium. The run will raise funds for a multiple sclerosis therapy centre.

It emerged at the meeting that the council would like to develop the lakes – which are owned by Bretts – for tourism, recreation and water sports.

But Cllr Gerry Clarkson, portfolio holder for cultural services, said a sound business case would be needed as well as agreement with other landowners before any development could go ahead.

Booze law closer

LAWS aimed at tackling antisocial behaviour caused by alcohol in the border have moved a step closer.

The designated public places order (DPPO) means police can confiscate alcohol from anyone causing a nuisance in public – or take them into custody if they refuse.

Ashford council has carried out consultations with key local groups on the initiative which will focus on the Stour Centre, North and Victoria Parks, Ashford station, Queen Mother's Park and the Bowens Field.

About £10,000 will be spent on promoting the scheme including erecting signs warning people they are now in an area covered by the order.

The laws can also result in a £500 fine if people refuse to stop drinking once asked to do so by the police.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Lotto winner misses out on £1.5m jackpot prize

THE Champagne won't be on ice for one Lotto winner who let a £1.5 million jackpot slip through their fingers.

Bosses at Camelot had appealed for the owner of the ticket – bought in an unnamed outlet in Swale – to come forward, but the six-month deadline to claim the prize has now elapsed, meaning the cash will go to the Lotto's good causes fund.

The winning numbers were 18, 19, 25, 30, 33 and 43 back in November last year.

Ram-raider jailed after DNA found on stolen car

A RAM-raider who targeted cash machines at three village shops in one night has been jailed for six years.

Nelson Hilden, of Gallants Lane, East Farleigh, was arrested in December last year after forensic teams found his DNA on a smashed windscreen of a stolen four-wheel drive vehicle.

The vehicle was one of two used by Hilden and others in ram-raids in Lyminge, Wye and Lenham, on December 12.

Orchid collector tells of his months in captivity

INTREPID orchid hunter Tom Hart Dyke will be speaking at the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury this Friday.

Hart Dyke will be speak about his adventures around the world collecting plants, which included a nine-month spell in captivity at the hands of Colombian guerrillas.

He will also talk about creating the gardens at his family home, Lullingstone Castle, during the talk at 7.30pm on Friday, May 8. Admission is £10.

Report over Icelandic bank cash to be changed

A REPORT accusing Kent County Council of "negligently" investing taxpayers' money in Icelandic banks is to be reworded.

KCC had threatened to sue the Audit Commission for the use of the word in its Risk and Return document, which investigated multi-million deposits by local authorities in Icelandic banks which were lost.

But chief executive Peter Gilroy revealed during the last full council meeting that the document would be amended.

Showbiz life at heart of Paul's book

■ BY NICK AMES

PANTO director Paul Hendy, responsible for many of the country's most successful shows, has raided his showbiz background to find material for his latest novel.

Hendy's celebrity pals have praised his second novel, Who Killed Simon Peters?, a black comedy whodunnit concerning the death of a back-stabbing celebrity.

TV personality Christopher Biggins described it as "a hysterical, rip-roaring yarn" while ex-EastEnder Shaun Williamson said it was "a laugh a page and then some".

The story concerns the title character's rise from C-list obscurity to A-list superstardom, before Peters, described as "deluded, self-obsessed and with an ego the size of Coventry" is found dead in suspicious circumstances.

Mr Hendy's first book features the same character. He said: "My earlier work was Diary of a C-List Celeb. At the time I was working as a TV presenter and I drew on a lot of the experiences I heard about – not necessarily my own but those of others I met up with.

"Now the character has clawed his way up to

the A list, but has upset so many people with his rampant ego that suspects are hardly thin on the ground when it comes to his death.

"The story also looks at the way the whole celebrity culture has taken off. I mean look at Susan Boyle of Britain's Got Talent. A few weeks ago no-one had heard of her. Now she is never out of the papers."

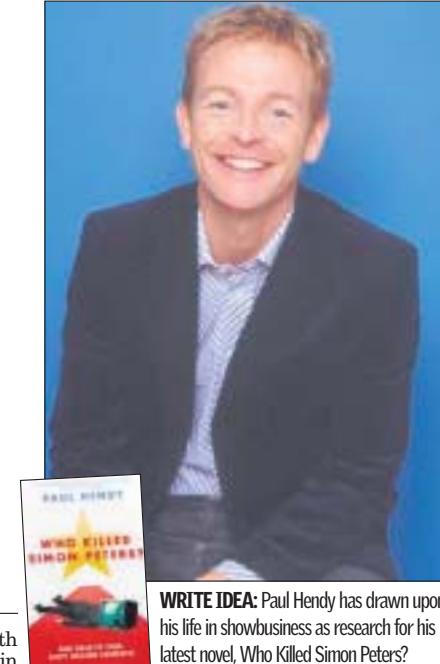
Former BBC Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan added: "I had to read the book to make sure I got a mention – very funny though."

Other celebrities have jokingly complained they are not mentioned in Mr Hendy's work.

Singer and reality TV star Toyah Wilcox called the book "brilliantly funny", but added: "Why isn't it about me? I think he should have called it Who killed Toyah Wilcox."

Mr Hendy, of Eastry, near Sandwich, has directed pantomimes at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre and Chatham's Central Theatre.

He has also hosted TV shows such as Don't Try This At Home and Wheel of Fortune – which had run for 20 years until he took it over but it was cancelled after one series.



WRITE IDEA: Paul Hendy has drawn upon his life in showbusiness as research for his latest novel, Who Killed Simon Peters?

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Swine flu fears caught on students' video



MEDIA students made a YouTube video quizzing people on their knowledge of swine flu – and were surprised at the level of panic the deadly virus is already causing.

Those involved in the project at Canterbury Christ Church University spoke to students at the Canterbury campus to test how much they knew about the epidemic.

One student said: "I'm concerned that it might actually come in the UK and affect a lot of people and I don't know how prepared the health services are to deal with it."

During the two-minute clip, one campus worker told students: "I'm due to fly to Australia in June so I have got a very long flight – about 20 hours – through Dubai. I'm a little bit concerned about being on a plane, potentially with people with swine flu."

Another student told the group filming that every student had been sent an email from university bosses warning them to stay at home if they suffered flu-like symptoms.

The students' video is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=s4cUlfwnWHU

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100 years of history filled Isle's skies



■ BY NICK AMES

A SPECTACULAR fly-past in the skies above the Isle of Sheppey marked the centenary of aviation in the Royal Navy, which purchased its first airship in 1909.

Large crowds took advantage of the sunny weather on Friday to watch the breath-taking display put on by aircraft from the Fleet Air Arm.

The anniversary was also commemorated at Eastchurch, where the first four Royal Navy pilots learned to fly in 1911.

Commander Sue Eagles said: "The historical importance of Eastchurch in the early development of Naval aviation is immense."

The fly-past included Harrier GR7 and GR9 jets, Hawk and Falcon aircraft, and a historic Sea Vixen.

Cmdr Eagles said: "Not only were the first four Naval pilots trained at Eastchurch, but the first Naval aircraft were also built there."

"Sheppey was the cradle of aviation in this country. The budding Naval aviators found themselves immersed in the wealth of pioneering aeronautical technology and endeavouring to build up there."

In 1911, Eastchurch became the first Royal Naval Air Station. In January of the following year, one of the first four Navy pilots took a Shorts aircraft from Eastchurch to Sheerness, flying it from a rudimentary plat-

form on the forward turret of a cruiser, HMS Africa, which was at anchor.

This was the first time an aircraft had taken-off from a ship in Britain.

In May, 1912, the same pilot and aircraft, Lt Charles Samson flying an S.38, took off from a similar platform on another cruiser, HMS Hibernia, while the ship made 15 knots.

The Short brothers moved to Rochester in 1913, but the association with the Navy led to their development of seaplanes and, in turn, flying boats for which the company became famous.

Aircraft designer Richard Fairey began his aviation industry career at Eastchurch in 1911, initially with the Blair Atholl Syndicate and then Shorts in 1913, before setting up his own company in 1915.

Iconic

The Fairey Swordfish remains the iconic Navy aircraft by virtue of its achievements in the Second World War such as attacking German battleships despite its slow speed and light armament.

The Sheppey links survive with Shorts' last aircraft, the Tucano, serving currently as a pilot trainer for the Navy.

With today's Fleet Air Arm largely a rotary-winged force, its helicopters are products of what is now the Augusta Westland Company. The first aircraft built by Westland were twelve Short 184 seaplanes for the Admiralty in 1915.

Fly Navy 100 is the programme of events this year marking the Royal Navy's aviation centenary, the service having placed a contract for its first airship in 1909.

Friday's events also saw a service at the Pioneer Memorial in Eastchurch which was attended by current and former serving members of the Fleet Air Arm, veterans, guests, and residents.

Guest of honour was Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo KCB, Vice Chief of Naval Staff between 1975 and 1978, who took the salute with Rear Admiral Simon Charlier, Chief of Staff Aviation and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm, as the fly-past soared overhead.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: The Isle of Sheppey was treated to the sight of (above) Harrier jump jets and (left) a historic Sea Vixen on Friday

Thanks to all your generosity Kent's kids are now better off

CHILDREN from across the county will benefit from thousands of pounds generously donated by KOS Media's army of readers.

The Kent Kids for Christmas appeal allowed people to purchase our sister paper Kent on Sunday for 60p over the festive period, with the profits handed over to charities that help youngsters who face disadvantages such as disabilities and homelessness.

The charities that will benefit from your money this year are Demelza Hospice Care for Children, Martha Trust, the Kentish Retts Angels and The Molly Bubb Fund.

Cash is also being donated to Invicta FM's Help a Kent Child campaign. The Molly Bubb Fund was



set up following the death last year of four-year-old Molly from Canterbury, who was struck with a rare form of brain cancer called chordoid plexus carcinoma.

Her mother Kerry said the £500 donation will go towards researching and raising awareness of the illness so other families do not have to go through what theirs did. A further £500 has gone to

the Kentish Retts Angels, which is a support group for parents of Rett syndrome sufferers.

Martha Trust provides a home for life for people with profound physical and learning difficulties, and has a residential home and day centre in Deal.

Fundraiser Serita Boxall said of the £1,000 donation: "It's a lot of money and will be a huge help. It's really kind of your readers to have donated in this way."

Demelza House children's hospice will also be receiving £1,000 while £5,000 is being given to Invicta FM's Help a Kent Child Campaign, from which several charities will be hoping to receive a share of the total amount raised.

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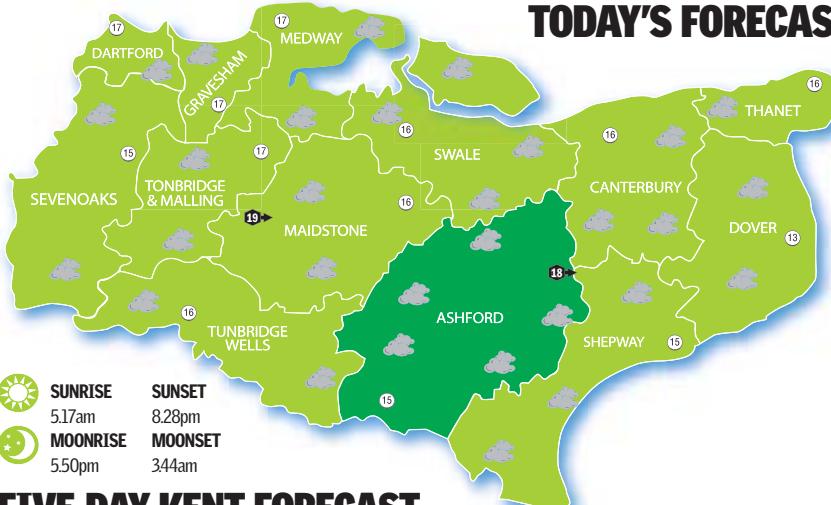
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FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	18°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	16°C	Gravesend	17°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	16°C
Canterbury	17°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	Maidstone	18°C	17°C	17°C	15°C	16°C
Chatham	17°C	16°C	15°C	14°C	14°C	Ramsgate	17°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	16°C
Dartford	17°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	16°C	Rochester	17°C	16°C	15°C	14°C	14°C
Dover	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	15°C	Sevenoaks	16°C	16°C	15°C	13°C	14°C
Faversham	17°C	16°C	15°C	14°C	14°C	Sittingbourne	17°C	16°C	15°C	14°C	14°C
Folkestone	14°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	15°C	Tonbridge	16°C	16°C	16°C	14°C	15°C
Gillingham	17°C	16°C	15°C	14°C	14°C	Tun Wells	16°C	16°C	16°C	14°C	15°C

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Record year for agency

LOCATE in Kent, the investment promotion agency for the county, announced its 2008/09 figures in Ashford last week.

The agency has helped a record 76 companies expand or relocate to the county, contributing £126m to Kent's economy. Chairman Sir Brandon Gough said: "Locate in Kent exceeded its targets on all fronts."

City opts for shared space

THE shared space concept pioneered on the two-way Ashford ring road is being considered by a major city. Birmingham City Council is considering using the scheme in Moseley, a village in the suburbs of its borders.

New law on skin piercing

THE council is to tighten legislation regarding tattooing, ear-piercing, acupuncture and electrolysis.

It is introducing a new bylaw to include cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin-colouring. A public notice will be issued and registered businesses will be contacted.

Advice for women drivers

WOMEN drivers are being invited to the Go Girls evening at the Nationwide Autocentre on Orbital Park on Thursday evening.

There they will be taught motor maintenance, advanced driving and self defence.

Call Lisa Conway on 0121 707 5811, or email lisaconway@nationwideautocentres.co.uk

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:46pm	5.9m
	Sunday	2:22pm	5.9m
Dover	Saturday	12:03pm	6.4m
	Sunday	12:41pm	6.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	12:00pm	7.4m
	Sunday	12:36pm	7.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:33pm	4.8m
	Sunday	1:11pm	4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:36pm	5.6m
	Sunday	2:12pm	5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:51pm	5.1m
	Sunday	2:25pm	5.0m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	12°C	Madrid	23°C
Athens	18°C	New York	13°C
Barcelona	22°C	Paris	15°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	21°C
Bombay	32°C	Sydney	22°C
Cape Town	22°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	11°C	Tokyo	23°C
Gibraltar	19°C	Vancouver	14°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	22°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	14°C

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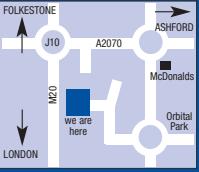
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QUESTION & ANSWER

TONY DONEGAN



Q & A

The 40-year-old son of King of Skiffle Lonnie Donegan and an established performer in his own right, spoke to Tom Betts about his life in Kent, following in his father's musical footsteps and what makes him tick

Q Tell us a little bit about yourself.

A I have lived in Kent for most of my life, as has my family, including my two daughters, Toni and Amber.

I haven't seen much interest in music from my daughters – only from dancing in front of the mirror – whereas I have had an interest in music since I started playing the drums at school. I also play the guitar and banjo.

Q What projects do you have in the pipeline?

A I have always been in a band of some sort and got involved in the Lonnie D Show some time ago.

I have enjoyed music as a sideline, but I intend to launch my own band this year and take it on the road as my girls are older now and the time is right.

Due to the recent successful sell-out concerts in Westgate and Birchington – and others in Kent – we intend to continue increasing bookings due to popular demand. We have a show coming up at the King's Hall in Herne Bay on July 17.

Q How often do you play in the east Kent area?

A Thanet is my home and a lot of our rehearsals and run-throughs find their way into the Thanet pubs and clubs, so quite often.

Q What kind of music do you play?

A Anything with only three chords – my other band play all sorts of covers, from Pink Floyd, Dire Straits and Eric Clapton to The Eagles, the Doobie Brothers, Steely Dan and even some Bob Marley.

Q Do you think you would have been drawn to music so much if it wasn't for your father?

A I think not! It was drums that first interested me and I would not have had that interest from listening to music – it was the close-up backstage moments that sparked my interest in them. Watching concerts from the wings is what did it.

Q Do you ever feel you are living in your father's shadow?

A There have been moments, I must say, although the introduction of Donegan songs into my band was a slow process brought about by popular demand.

When dad died, The Lonnie D Show showcased itself during a tribute concert at the Royal Albert Hall, where I was catapulted to the front of the stage with dad's band behind me and his fans in front.

The Lonnie D Show toured throughout 2004 and 2005, playing many venues that not so long before I had seen dad perform at. This was a very twilight zone experience and, to be honest, a bittersweet one.

Q What is your best memory of your dad?

A That's a hard one. Musically speaking, I would have to say his performance when he played at the Glastonbury Festival. He produced an exceptionally good sound – they were a lively crowd and he gave a slick and consistent performance.

He had done a few concerts on the tour already and although many of them had been great, I think this was the concert in the tour that had it all. Perhaps it was the Glastonbury magic but I am sure dad would agree.

Q Who are your heroes and inspirations?

A Like most boys, their own father, so to me mine was my hero – and especially after he was awarded the MBE in 2000. He is now also my inspiration to produce music that brings pleasure and memories to all those people who bought and listened to his skiffle music.

Q What do you like about Kent and what keeps you here?

A Thanet has always been my home and, no matter where you go in life, home is home. I have no desire to pack my bags and leave Thanet, at least not at the moment. My family are here. That aside, I think Thanet has a lot of potential despite its employment problems. Kent is the Garden of England and Thanet is as beautiful as any other area of Kent.

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Western Avenue, Ashford



National Police Dog Trials were held in Kent for the first time. Search 'dog'



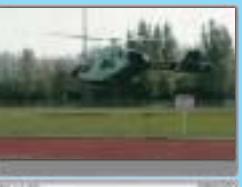
Zeebrugge bell rung in memory of Dover Patrol heroes. Search 'bell'



Harlequins host a training session with Medway Dragons. Search 'Dragons'



Sound of Music exhibition at Turner Contemporary Space. Search 'Turner'



Air ambulance launches recycling service at Julie Rose Stadium. Search 'air'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Scrap Dartford tolls and let people breathe easy

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY EMILY HALL

THE Dartford Crossing toll could be suspended after a report found pollution from queuing traffic may be sending people to an early grave.

Councillors have called on the Government to act immediately after a Dartford council working group linked smog from queuing traffic to higher than average levels of lung and heart disease in the area.

Council leader Jeremy Kite has demanded action from the Department for Transport after the report found life expectancy in Dartford was a full year lower than in other areas of Kent.

He has now formally asked the Government to temporarily suspend the £1.50 peak time charge to see if free-flowing traffic reduces the level of dangerous fumes.

"We are asking the Government to realise that at some point they will have to put people's health before making money," he said.

"If people living next to a nuclear power station all fell ill it would be a national scandal, but for some reason the Government seems to think that because a road network is causing our health problems it is something they can ignore."

"For the people here it is a living nightmare. What we have seen is a series of appalling decisions that have increased congestion."

The Dartford Crossing is used by about 150,000 vehicles a day. It is the fourth most congested stretch of road in the UK, making



UNDER A CLOUD: Air pollution near the Dartford Crossing is damaging people's health, local councillors say

it a pollution hotspot.

Councillors formed a working group after NHS figures revealed there was a higher level of emergency hospital admissions for heart and lung problems – including childhood asthma – in those routinely exposed to the choked-up crossing.

The report said: "With the exception of Bean Interchange, all of the other air management areas are in areas with higher concentrations of health problems.

"It is clear that while the actions taken by the borough council will mitigate some of the problems, the likely increase in traffic within the road system and crossing will continue to have a major effect."

A DoT spokesman said they were looking at changes to tolls but would not say whether a suspension was a possibility.

He added: "Studies indicate that without any charge traffic levels would be even higher, leading to even more congestion and seriously worsening pollution.

"After publication of the Dartford Crossing capacity study [in April] we said we would carry out further work to consider whether improving the layout of the toll plazas or applying one-way tolling on the crossing could deliver improvements to the flow of traffic in the short term."

• **What do you think?** Email your comments to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

The countdown to Invicta's new change of Heart

COMMERCIAL radio station Invicta FM has confirmed the date on which it will undergo the biggest change in its 25-year history.

On June 22 it will ditch the Invicta name it has used since its inception in 1984 and become Heart.

The name change, first revealed last year, is part of a strategy by Invicta's owners to enhance its appeal to advertisers and link in with the national Heart network.

Invicta chiefs say listeners will benefit from a boost in production standards and access to bigger stars than ever before.

Critics, however, say the move continues to erode the station's Kent roots and further put at risk programmes produced at Invicta's studios in Whitstable.

While key shows, such as breakfast with James Heming and Gemma Shepherd and the drivetime slot with Neil Kefford will remain, much of the daytime and weekend schedules will be networked shows with the likes of former Neighbours star Jason Donovan and TV presenter Toby Anstis.

Quality

Invicta FM managing director Neil Webster insists the move will only bring positives.

He said: "We are delivering a high quality national product, but delivering it locally.

"From the listeners' point of view, they will get largely the same but lots more investment in things like on-air production – it will sound slicker – the music will be much the same as it is now."

The station says it is in negotiations with a host of events – including the Sugababes and James Morrison shows at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury next month – to use as high-profile platforms to promote the name change.

And 'Heart Angels' will be taking to the streets to spread the word, as well as an extensive television and advertising campaign in the week of the change.

Open Day South Kent College

Thursday 14th May 2.30pm–7pm

For more information and to find out which campus to visit, go to www.southkent.ac.uk or call 0845 207 8220



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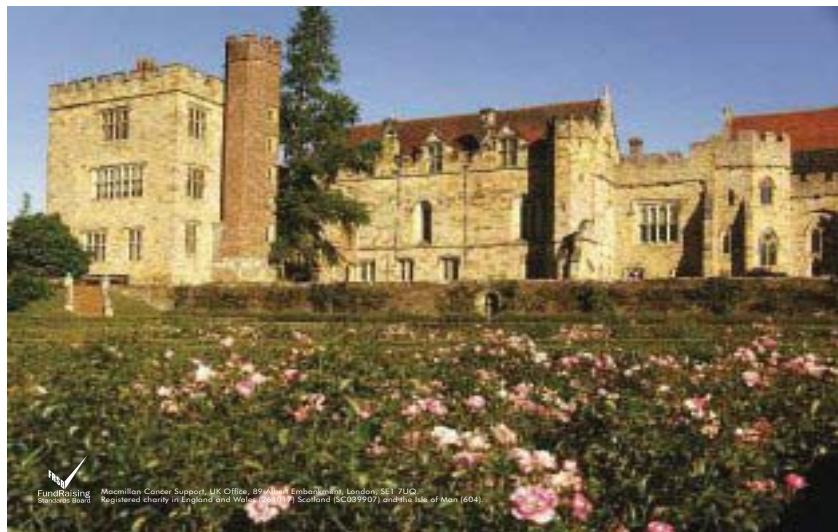
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Savouring spring's flavours

He's one of the rising stars on the celebrity chef scene, close friends with Hell's Kitchen's Marco Pierre White - for whom he worked as head chef for years - and has already come out in support of our Buy Local Produce campaign. Now **Richard Phillips**, who grew up in Rainham and lives near Maidstone, writes for KOS Media in the first of a series of regular features, supporting our campaign and our website, www.foodforkent.co.uk



OVER the past few years there has been a distinct rise in the quality and availability of top-class homegrown vegetables, meat, fish and fruit.

Farmers have raised their game in the face of stiff competition and pressure from supermarket chains. For me, running three restaurants in Kent, it is vital that I receive the best food and it's great to know that I can support local farmers and the local economy by buying local produce.

It's not just about buying local for the sake of it though. I need the best quality in my restaurants because that is what customers expect and, to be honest, I would not work with anything less.

Locality is only a part of the equation though. The best, tastiest food is that which is being grown right now. Seasonality is the key to not only eating the best, but also diversifying our menus and diets.

By eating food out of season, you are diminishing the experience. With spring well and truly here, now is the time when we are going to be seeing the very best produce,

meats and fish. Spring is one of the county's most colourful seasons, bringing richness in variety, taste and availability.

It's a time when we should be making the most of new season fruit, vegetables, meats and fish. The good thing about making the most of the plentiful availability of new season produce is that prices are also keener - you'll notice this reflected at the till.

Seasonality and making meals from food in plentiful supply has, due to the advent of supermarkets stocking their shelves with processed food, become something of a lost way of eating.

The impact this has had on local farming has meant we often sacrifice freshness and taste for accessibility.

Convenience is one thing, but when items which we can grow seasonally - and often better and tastier - are shipped half way around the world after being picked days and sometimes weeks before, we have to begin to question if it really is the best way.

This month, one of my favourite vegetables is in season and it is without doubt one of the most versatile and arguably best of English vegetables - asparagus.

The season doesn't last long, so let's make the most of this great vegetable that is grown all over Kent. When purchasing asparagus, go for the medium-sized stems as they have had enough time to take on the flavour, but not too much time to be tough.

Fresh asparagus can make the perfect accompaniment to any main course and works equally well with fresh fish or meat. The season also brings a fresh crop of new potatoes and in the next couple of weeks we have the arrival of spring lamb and Kentish crabs to look forward to.

The dish I have prepared this week is warm poached salmon, Kentish asparagus and warm new potato salad. This is a quick and easy dish to prepare but guaranteed to treat your taste buds to a range of subtle and strong flavours, making the most of our local produce.

All of the ingredients used in the recipe are available from the [foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk) website.

Richard Phillips



RICHARD'S RECIPE

150g piece of Fresh Salmon Fillet (bones removed, skin left on)

Cooking liquor for the salmon
500ml water, 100ml Tenterden Chapel Down white wine, half a lemon juiced, 5 peppercorns, 8 parsley stalks

4 Kentish asparagus spears (peeled and cooked, in boiling salted water)

5 medium sized Jersey new potatoes

Teaspoon chopped chives, fine

Teaspoon chopped shallots, fine

50g rocket salad (washed)

5 yellow cherry tomatoes (cut in to halves)

10 green beans, Cooked in boiling water

Vinaigrette

150ml of olive oil

50ml of white wine vinegar

25ml luke warm water

Teaspoon of honey

Teaspoon grain mustard



Place the mustard and honey into a bowl, then whisk in the vinegar, then slowly add the olive oil, then finely add the water, season with salt and pepper

- Bring to the boil the cooking liquor for the salmon. Place the salmon into the liquid and turn off the heat, leave to stand for 4-5min. Remove from the cooking liquid, remove skin and flake into nice chunky pieces.

- Slice the cooked potatoes and mix with the chopped chives, shallots and a few drops of dressing (see recipe) season with salt and pepper, cover with cling film and keep warm. Mix the rocket leaves with the dressing just before serving

- Place the warm potatoes into the centre of the plate, then place the green beans and tomatoes on top then the rocket leaves, then the warm flaked salmon, arrange the asparagus spears around and drizzle with the grain mustard and honey dressing. Enjoy!

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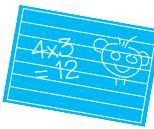
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BREAK TIME



MESSAGE: ABC Canine Officer Colin Leek, PC Alison Barney, headteacher Kelly Brooks with Lauren Law, George Davison and Molly Ralph

Mess campaign a big draw for kids

THE increasing amount of dog poo in Chilham has prompted pupils to mount a poster campaign to persuade villagers to bag it and bin it.

Children from St Marys Church of England Primary School have been designing posters to get dog owners to clean up after their pets.

The three best ideas, created by Molly Ralph, 9, George Davison, 8, and Lauren Law, 8, have been laminated and will be posted around the village.

The posters will go up next week, and the school said pupils are looking forward to seeing their designs around the village.

Celebrating sports

THIS term children at High Halton Primary School have enjoyed a range of successful sports festivals.

They have been encouraged to take part in basketball, athletics, gymnastics, rackets, outdoor adventure activities and Tri golf. By the end of the year every child in years five and six will have been given the chance to take part in a festival.

Organisations club together for after school play area

■ BY ED HILL

VICTORIA Road Primary School has celebrated the opening of a new after school club.

Children sang songs in front of an audience of staff, parents and governors to mark the official opening of the building.

The new club will be housed in the school's old headmaster's house which was originally built next to the school in 1897. Until two years ago it was occupied by the school caretaker but has now been converted so children can use it in the morning for the breakfast club and after school until they are collected by their parents.

The £40,000 conversion means there are two play rooms, kitchen, separate toilets and a garden play area at the rear of the building.

After school clubs usually operate for around two and half hours after the school day has finished at 3.30pm. Children can take part in relaxing activities, such as games, sports or art and crafts under the care of the play workers.

The school is also celebrating being in the top five per cent of schools at level 4 SATs in the country for the third year running. It recently received a letter from education minister Jim Knight congratulating staff and children on their performance.

The school used money from the county council, the Surestart programme and its own funds to carry out the work for the new club.

Headteacher Carol Bursey said: "We are lucky to have found a special place for the club. Parents need to be sure children are well looked after."

Ashford Mayor John Link opened building



SAFE PLACE TO PLAY: Mayor John Link opened the new after school club with help from some of the pupils

with some of the children who will be using the facilities.

School governor Cllr Brendan Naughton said: "We managed to get the money together from several sources. It is great that this is now ready for the children to use."

Last minute work was carried out so

that the facilities would be open after the Easter holiday.

County councillor Derek Smyth said: "After school clubs are something we are very keen to encourage. This is an ideal situation when the club can be in a separate location from the school itself."

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk

yourashfordblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in the district of Ashford...



Dear Sir.... I've found even more reasons to be miserable

IT'S strange what people complain about, isn't it?

Here we are putting up with the worst recession since money was invented, and now there's the prospect of a swine flu pandemic.

What next, a plague of frogs? A spate of incurable boils?

With all the headlines blaring the latest Armageddon-causing catastrophe you could be forgiven for thinking 'can things get any worse?'

But even when people may be having visions of a population stricken with swine flu sinking beneath a global-warming-induced flood as bailiffs repossess our cars, there is always someone who will actively seek out more things to get worked up about.

For example, the latest set of figures from the Advertising Standards Agency reveals the adverts which attracted the most complaints over the last 12 months. Unfortunately, these were not complaints based on an advert's like-

lihood to annoy. Ocean Finance is safe for the moment, as are Barry Scott and the infuriating person who penned the theme for Sheila's Wheels, who deserves some kind of Clockwork Orange-style re-education programme.

No, these were genuine complaints, the dull sort contained in letters which begin: 'Dear Sir...' These are the 'genuinely offended', or at least the people who feel they should be offended by something because someone else may be offended.

This is a modern phenomenon; vicarious offence when the letter writer has failed to be offended enough themselves, so chooses to experience offence on behalf of other people.

It's easy to spot; just look for the phrase "because X might offend Y". 'Might' not 'has', because really the vicarious offendee has no idea whether Y will be offended by X at all.

While most of the moaning about these second-hand moral transgressions is the pastime of prudes and the excessively politically correct, it can also be an excuse for failing to

confront or acknowledge important issues. Claiming offence is a coward's way of closing down debate on an uncomfortable subject, a favoured tool of extremists or others with an agenda to promote. Worse still is claiming to be offended by unpleasant truths, simply as a means of pretending they don't exist.

The advert that garnered the most complaints was made on behalf of children's charity Barnardo's, showing scenes of children being physically and emotionally abused.

The writers told the Advertising Standards Agency they were "concerned about the scenes" which included beatings and drug abuse. If these people were genuinely concerned, wouldn't it have made more sense to send a letter to Barnardo's?

Maybe even one with a cheque in it?

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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Gary Wright, on 01303 817032 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, YourAshford, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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People who giggle regularly have stronger immune systems, lower blood pressure and are better able to deal with the stresses and strains of everyday life.

In fact giggling is so good for us that close to half (47 per cent) of Brits think people who giggle more take less days off sick. But it's not just a matter of health. People who giggle are more creative at work, according to 57 per cent of those surveyed.

Maltesers' top tips for giggles are:

- Spend time with other gigglers – giggling is very contagious
- Stop to enjoy light-hearted moments throughout the day. If things are getting you down, try to look for humour in everyday situations
- Smile – this can often lead to giggles and will help those around you feel happier
- Visit friends and family – the number one giggle trigger in their study.

See www.maltesers.co.uk for more giggly information.

To help you on your way to 30 giggles a day, Maltesers has teamed up with KOS Media to offer two lucky readers the chance to win a fab Giggle Goodie Bag full of things to make you smile.

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KEN and LINDA COOPER

Ken and Linda Cooper of Ashford Model Supply centre talk to us about their hobby, business and local flying clubs



How did you get into model planes?

Ken: I have been into it since about the age of thirteen. Aeroplanes have always been my interest. I served for 12 years in the air force which meant living all around the country. I am a member of a club who meet at Shadshot. I think people very soon know if they love flying planes. It involves being in cold fields but it also helps with getting the skills to build things. Some of the detail people go into is amazing. We also supply helicopters and buggies and supply education and small industry. For example at the North School if they give children a science project, such as how lift on an aeroplane wing works they are given the chance to make a small plane.

What's Ashford like for model flying clubs?

Ken: We have two clubs one which is more helicopters and the other fixed wing. Planes need a larger area so it not so easy to have the two types of aircraft in the same field. People always want to fly a Spitfire right from the word go but you need to train on something simpler first because it is a skill to learn to fly a model plane. If you're interested go to one of the clubs have a look and see what you think.

What else do you sell?

Linda: We sell buggies and we have just expanded into the model railway field. There are thousands of people out there who are into model railways but no one who services and supplies them between Dover and Dartford. We have contracts with all the major manufacturers. Ashford has a great railway heritage and there are a lot of enthusiasts out there who we felt needed a new shop. Visit www.ashfordmodel.co.uk.

YOUR LETTERS

Why so quick to rasher into a panic?

So now there is yet another media-inspired panic for everyone to get into a flap about.

What will the Government do about Swine Flu?

Will they burn all the pigs as they ordered last time during the foot and mouth outbreak.

Whatever it is I am sure it will go totally over the top and be completely unnecessary.

Alex Phillips, by email



Time to listen to us about the Gurkhas

Everyone seems to be allowed to stay in the UK but the Gurkhas – and that has to be wrong.

This Government seems to have no feeling for the amount of public support these extremely respected men and women have among the British public.

The administration in Whitehall is always trying to make itself more popular – why not just accept that people want the requests of those who have served Britain for so many years to be taken on board? It is the very least they can do in the way of thanks.

Vicky Mills, from Maidstone, by email



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ple in need were taken in and given shelter and protection.

Whether they were fleeing oppressive Governments, war or a natural disaster, Britain had a great tradition of accommodating them.

But now it seems that it's just anyone who wants to come here is in.

Let's have the old rules back again and help those who really need it.

Peter Crompton, by email

Celebrate the British Legion

The Royal British Legion has been helping to rebuild lives of our heroes and their dependents since 1921.

We are inviting the public to visit us at the Multi Culture Extravaganza on May 23 at Victoria Park, Ashford from noon, where we will have a welfare stand with the county welfare officers-Karen Small and Mrs Cathy Ash.

Kent Welfare is number one in the UK for its welfare work and Jim Butcher who is Ashford's welfare officer and his wife Rosemary will also be present. They have won an award three years in succession for their contribution in the community in helping ex-service personnel and their dependents, including helping many Gurkhas, rebuild their lives.

We will be locally supported by the Gurkha community who will be offering dancing and singing displays as well as food. Last year 300 Gurkhas attended and we are hoping for more this year.

Come along and see what the Royal British Legion is all about.

Royal British Legion, by email



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

Not only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

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And remember, www.yourashford.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Ashford and Tenterden as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourashford before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

On www.yourashford.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly-acclaimed e-editions.

Old refugee rules should be in place

In the latest row over immigration it seems the French are yet

again desperate to get rid of as many asylum seekers from outside Calais as they can by sending them over to us in Kent.

But what happened to the old rules which governed refugees?

It used to be that genuine peo-

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Get a treat and raise dough for charity

National Doughnut Week is fast approaching and I would like to make a special appeal to your readers to support this annual charity event, which takes place from May 9 to 16 in aid of The Children's Trust.

Everyone deserves a treat from time to time and this fun campaign is a great way to share some delicious doughnuts with family, friends and work colleagues, and also raise some dough for charity.

All you need to do is to purchase doughnuts from participating bakers – wherever you see the National Doughnut Week posters displayed.

By doing so, you will be helping to make a real difference to some very special children.

Money raised by participating bakers and the public will benefit The Children's Trust, a national charity, which provides care, education and therapy for children with multiple disabilities and complex health needs, and rehabilitation services to children with an acquired brain injury.

Last year, National Doughnut Week's fundraising activities across the UK raised more than £30,000 and, with your support, we hope to beat this figure in 2009.

So bakers, if you haven't done so, please register now and get baking and all you lovely people get buying.

For ideas on how to get involved, plus celebrities' doughnut

favourites, please visit: www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/doughnuts.

To make credit or debit card donations, please call 01737 365027.

Thank you – and don't forget to buy yourself a doughnut treat!

Ainsley Harriot, TV presenter and chef, on behalf of The Children's Trust, by email

Listen up, it's time to check your hearing

During Deaf Awareness Week, which runs until this Sunday, RNID is asking us all to look after our hearing health and take the charity's special hearing check.

People can take up to 15 years to acknowledge their hearing loss.

RNID's message is simple – if you have hearing difficulties, dial 0844 800 3838 or visit www.rnid.org.uk/hearingmatters to check your hearing now so you can start taking steps to return to a fulfilling life.

RNID is The Co-operative charity of the year 2009 and as part of this partnership The Co-operative is supporting RNID's campaign to check the hearing of a million people.

During Deaf Awareness Week Co-operative Food stores will be fundraising and raising awareness about RNID's hearing checks.

RNID also wants to hear about the impact hearing loss has on people's everyday lives. Whatever your experiences – good or bad – please email your story, in confidence, to mediarelations@rnid.org.uk.



HEAR THIS:
Richard Wilson

ple's everyday lives. Whatever your experiences – good or bad – please email your story, in confidence, to mediarelations@rnid.org.uk.

Richard Wilson OBE, actor, on behalf of RNID

Young carers, click into this competition

I have a family member who is affected by dementia so I know life can be difficult for those caring for a loved one. What I can't imagine is how much harder it is for the thousands of young people who take on this responsibility.

From my time in da Bungalow, I know that having the chance to cut loose and have fun is part of what being young is all about.

Sadly, many young people who are caring do not have the time to do so.

That's why I'm calling on all young carers to take a moment to escape from their daily routine and take part in Zoom! – a national photo competition for young carers.

Zoom! is open to any carer under the age of 18. You just need to enter a photo you have taken which reflects any aspect of your life for the chance to win one of ten great prizes. Entries must be submitted by May 14 and winners will be announced during Carers Week, June 8-14.

For details see www.carersweek.org or call 0845 241 2582.

**Richard McCourt,
Dick from Dick and Dom, by email**

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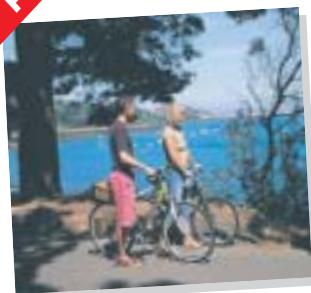
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In search of the truth

Philip Pullman's lavish Dark Materials is brought to the stage in two parts – and you can bring your own picnic

HIS DARK MATERIALS

Wednesday, May 6 to Sunday,
May 10
Churchill Theatre, Bromley



READERS all over the world have been captivated by Philip Pullman's epic fantasy series His Dark Materials. The first of the award-winning trilogy, The Golden Compass, was turned into a Hollywood blockbuster in 2007 and now theatregoers can enjoy a lavish production of the story when it visits Kent this week.

The Churchill Theatre will be the only venue in the South East on the show's UK tour, so fans should not miss the chance to catch this major production.

In order to do justice to the sprawling story, the show is presented in two parts which can both be seen in one day, with time for a 'picnic break' between performances. Alternatively, there is an opportunity to see the two performances on separate evenings.

Set in worlds that are both familiar and unknown, His Dark Materials follows the thrilling adventures of young Lyra and her friend Will, a boy on the run.

When Lyra hears her uncle, Lord Asriel, arguing with religious authorities about the mysterious 'dust', she sets out to discover the truth. Her journey will take her to the Arctic and bring her into the company of the intriguing, but dangerous Mrs Coulter.

She meets fantastical creatures in parallel worlds, from the child-catching Gobblers to armoured polar bears. Although Lyra lives in an Oxford which looks much like our own, hers is a world in which people's souls are brought to life in the form of animals, or daemons.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre's artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh has worked with specialist puppet company Blind Summit Theatre to bring these magical creatures to life, while a company of 25 actors will bring Pullman's characters from the



Picture CATHERINE ASHMORE

FACING YOUR DAEMONS: Puppeteers bring the fantasy animals to life in the stage version of the award-winning His Dark Materials stories, which is coming to Bromley's Churchill Theatre

page to the stage. In part one, Lyra uncovers the secrets of the truth-telling alethiometer and learns that her fate is strangely linked with Will's.

Together they must find a magical knife which can take them to parallel worlds, but in part two Lyra is kidnapped. Will must help to free her before they can travel to the land of the dead and fight to decide the fate of Good and Evil.

His Dark Materials can be seen in its entirety on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Bring your own picnic or enjoy between shows. Part one will also be performed at 7pm tonight, followed by part two at 7pm on Friday.

Tickets are priced from £21 to £30 for each performance. See both parts in one day and enjoy discounted rates of £80 for two people and £146 for families of four.

To book call the box office on 0870 060 6620 or visit the website at www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley.



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X CITE

Saturday, May 9
County Square Shopping Centre,
Ashford

TWO love stories written 400 years apart meet when X Cite visits County Square.

Made up of three talented young actors from the Stage 22 School of Arts, X Cite will perform two shows on Saturday, at 1pm and 2pm. The story draws on William

Shakespeare's beloved Romeo and Juliet and the 21st century phenomenon that is High School Musical. The 20-minute performances combine elements from both tales to create a charming love story.

Other aspiring young actors will then be given the chance to shine by taking part in an audition workshop, where children could win a part in the company's next production, The Best of

High School Musical. The 90-minute workshop takes place in the shop unit next to Debenhams at 3.30pm and participants will be judged by a performer and producer from Stage 22. Successful candidates will be notified about five days after the audition.

Children aged from eight to 11 can take part by going to www.stage22.co.uk or completing a registration form on the day.



OVER MY DEAD BODY

Wednesday, May 6 to
Saturday, May 9
The Church Barn, Charing

FOLLOWING his wife's death, Gerald looks forward to spending the rest of his life alone with his memories.

But thanks to his late wife's forward planning, Gerald's privacy is steadily invaded by well-meaning people who are determined to keep him company.

Over My Dead Body, a gentle comedy written by Derek Benfield, is the latest production by the Charing Guild of Players. Benfield was best-known for his role as Patricia Routledge's disapproving

husband in the detective series, Hetty Wainthropp Investigates.

This play sees Gerald striving to maintain his independence, with the help of his daughter and son-in-law, while fending off old friends,

relatives and even the cleaning lady.

Performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £6/£5, available on the door or by calling 01233 712695. For details of the Guild go to www.charingguild.com.



BOOTLEG SHADOWS

Saturday, May 9
Sinden Theatre, Tenterden

ONE of the greatest rock 'n' roll bands of all times is celebrated by The Bootleg Shadows.

When Hank B Marvin, Bruce Welch, Jet Harris and Tony Meehan recorded Apache in July 1960, they launched an instrumental career that would make the Shadows one of the most successful British bands ever. Since then they have achieved 35 hits of their own, as well as another 33 with Cliff Richard, and won their place in the annals of popular music.

Their immaculate look, synchronised dance moves

and clean sound won legions of fans, while aspiring guitarists everywhere dreamed of stepping into the spotlight with a Fender Stratocaster.

This fantasy concert encompasses the band's amazing career from the 60s to the early 80s, featuring such unforgettable tracks as

Foot Tapper, Man of Mystery, Atlantis, Wonderful Land, Kon Tiki, Don't Cry For Me Argentina, FBI and many more.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £12. Book online at www.sindentheatre.biz or call 01580 763826.

ASHFORD LEISURE

Cecil's looking for love at historic property

A SUCCESSFUL novelist contemplates marriage in The Kingfisher, by William Douglas Home, by the Barn Theatre.

Cecil is determined to marry the woman he loved and lost 50 years before. But he has underestimated the feelings of both the lady and his moody butler.

See the play at Smallhythe Place at 7pm tonight. To book tickets, which cost £12, call 0844 249 1895.

Let the Slug Pixies give your ears a bashing

GET ready to rock out when the Slug Pixies perform in Ashford this week.

Formed in 2002, the band's sound has been described as 'rock music for the hard of hearing'. Their website is www.slugpixies.com.

They will be playing live at the George Hotel in High Street on Friday. For more information about the venue call the pub on 01233 625512.

Band promises to bring Turmoil to pub gig

ROCK out to popular hits by a diverse range of acts when Turmoil plays live in Ashford.

The four-piece from the Folkestone and Dover area plays songs from The Automatic and Green Day to the Rolling Stones and Pearl Jam. More information at www.myspace.com/weareturmoil.

They are at The Star in East Hill on Friday. Call the pub on 01233 620391.

Pub is a great place to see Beergut 100

EXPLORE the best in rock in the company of Kent three-piece band Beergut 100.

The band plays cover versions by a range of artists, from Queen and Elton John to The Fratellis and The Ordinary Boys. Details on www.beergut100.com.

Beergut 100 are at the Hooden on the Hill in Silverhill Road, Willesborough, on Friday. Call the pub on 01233 662226.

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Back to the future

The 80s make a comeback this spring



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ASHFORD SHOPPING

Be a refreshing beauty in national campaign

THE search is on for a 'real woman' to be the face of bottled water brand Willow.

Willow was the official water of the Britain's Next Top Model series and is a favourite with celebrities. Now the company is hunting for a fresh beauty to front its national marketing campaign.

Send a head-and-shoulder shot and contact details, along with a statement of no more than 30 words saying why you love being a natural beauty, to willowwater@brazenpr.com by May 22.

Cordial invitation to try a delicious new flavour

GET ready for a very British summer with Bottlegreen's new Classic Variety Cordials range.

Wash down those picnics and barbecues with Williams Pear & Elderflower, Blackberry & Russet Apple and Cox's Apple & Plum, all created using an array of natural ingredients.

Bottlegreen's Classic Variety Cordials are available from Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Tesco, independent retailers and at www.ocado.com, priced from £2.49.

Have a dip in a wholly guilt-free experience

HELP wildlife while you wash with the RSPB's new Skinner Dipper bath and shower products.

The fun and fresh range contains no palm oil, the production of which has destroyed vast areas of rainforest, or phosphates which cause major problems for rivers and wetlands. All the profits from sales will go directly into the conservation work of the RSPB.

Prices start at £3.50 and the range can be bought at www.rspbshop.co.uk.

Burberry price cuts are truly heaven scents

FANS of Burberry fragrances are in luck with Lloyds Pharmacy's special offer this month.

Burberry Summer 08 Man usually retails at £29 for 100ml, but the pharmacy chain is offering it at a reduced price of £19. There is a £9 saving on Burberry Summer 08 Woman, with 50ml bottles being reduced to £18.

Both offers are available until May 26. Visit www.lloydspharmacy.com to find your nearest store.

Bite into Continental treats at the market

ENJOY a taste of the Continent at a French market in Tunbridge Wells this weekend.

Shoppers can pick up authentic and delicious French produce as this popular market returns. It will be held in the Upper Pantiles from 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Parking can be found off Mayor York's Road. For more information about events at The Pantiles visit the website at www.thepantilesonline.co.uk.

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WHAT'S ON: MAY



Normandy Veterans

On 7th, 8th and 9th May come and show your support for our Normandy Veterans, who'll be going to France to mark the 65th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

Young love

Talented young actors X Cite will perform a love story based on Romeo and Juliet and High School Musical. Catch the performances on 9th May at 1pm and 2pm. There'll also be an audition workshop at 3.30pm for any budding young stars!



Get set with Theatre Train

Theatre Train will be running jazz and street dance workshops for kids aged 5 – 16 years on 26th – 29th May from 11am – 12pm and 2pm – 3pm.



www.countysquareshoppingcentre.com

yourashfordmusic

A Golden line-up at Lounge on the Farm



ON THE LIST: Golden Silvers will be at the festival

INFECTIOUSLY-catchy hitmakers Golden Silvers are among the latest batch of bands and artists to be added to the Lounge on the Farm line-up.

The London trio – behind the three-minute piece of pop perfection that is True Romance – will play the Canterbury three-dayer alongside the likes of Casiokids, Son Of Dave, A Hawk And A Hacksaw and Josh Weller.

Two Kent favourites have also been con-

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

firmed for Lounge 2009 – with punk upstarts Underground Heroes and the joyous Kid Harpoon set to take to the Farm.

Organisers behind the Merton Farm festival, now in its fourth year, said there were more top acts to be announced.

LOTF's Matt Gough said: "We're really happy with the line-up this year."

"As ever we've been picking off the bands we've been listening to the most so it's very

much representative of our current tastes.

"And we'd like to think we have pretty good tastes. It's worked so far."

"We do have a Saturday headliner yet to announce but it's not quite confirmed yet."

Lounge on the Farm has quickly grown into one of the country's biggest little festivals, largely thanks to its focus on the experience rather than just the music.

The Farm offers a range of activities to keep the children entertained, food and drink sourced locally and a host of non-music performers.

Mr Gough added: "We're offering something completely different to a festival where everything is just about the headliners on the bill."

"There's such quality throughout our line-up we're quite happy without having to enter that particular rat race."

Lounge runs from Friday, July 10 to Sunday, July 12.

Last year's sell-out festival saw hundreds of top bands and artists perform across six stages, ranging from the Cow Shed to the Sheep Dip.

The line-up boasted the likes of Art Brut, The Coral, New York Dolls, Black Kids and Mystery Jets.

For more information visit www.loungonthefarm.co.uk.

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THE ETHER: UpCdownC performing their track Black Lodge live



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- 1 Lost in Colour - Stay Awake (from Maidstone)
- 2 The Suspects - War of Words (from Margate)
- 3 Directions - Golden Lights (from Maidstone)
- 4 Shelta - Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 5 Poppy Wilson - Carbon Copy (from Maidstone)

15TH ANNIVERSARY of the CHANNEL TUNNEL

On 6th May 1994, one of the 7 Wonders of the Modern World, The Channel Tunnel, was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in a joint ceremony with France's President Mitterrand. To mark the 15th Anniversary of this momentous occasion, a Limited-Edition Commemorative Cover (collectable envelope) has been created by leading cover producers Buckingham Covers.

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Jordan reveals its ancient secrets

■ BY KELLY MACNAMARA

WE are perched high above the valley in the magnificent Dana Nature Reserve, looking west across the vast Dana Valley towards the horizon where Jordan comes to an end.

Jordan's story is a complex one. Positioned at the crossroads of inter-continental trade routes, it has been an important conquest for many an ambitious empire. All the big hitters of the ancient world – Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Persians and finally the British – ruled it at one time or another.

Today, Jordan is an oasis of calm in a region racked by bitter dispute. It is encircled by instability, with Iraq on its north-east border, Israel and the Palestinian territories to the west and Syria in the north.

Dana's wonderful Rummana Campsite on the 76,000-acre reserve is home to about 600 species of plants, 37 species of mammals and 190 species of birds, and is the perfect place to discover the wilder side of Jordan.

Arriving after a sumptuous lunch at the Dana Guesthouse, which included a mouth-watering selection of local cuisine and jaw-dropping views, I travelled with a small group to the campsite on a remote plateau with its cluster of sail-white tents surrounded by serene red mountains.

Our host is Saleh, a Bedouin whose eloquence is matched by his evident enchantment with the place where his family has lived for generations.

He takes me on a short hike rich with observations: which rock to climb for the best views; the onion-like plant favoured by local hedge-



OASIS OF CALM: The dramatic landscape of the Dana Valley in Jordan is revealed to visitors by Bedouin guides

hogs; a badger sett; the paw print of a lynx in the dust.

My next stop is another of Jordan's mysteries – the ancient city of Petra.

Built by the industrious Nabatean people, this legendary city deep inside a narrow desert gorge once dominated the trading routes of ancient Arabia, sheltering caravans laden with Indian spices and African ivory.

Walking through corridors of sheer rock torn open in a prehistoric earthquake, I am struck by the otherworldliness of the place.

A steep climb in the murderous heat is rewarded by the ethereal monastery, and a chilled drink at a mountain-top cafe.

My bed for the night awaits amid the whispering mountains of Wadi Rum, in south-west Jordan. This is Lawrence of Arabia country: rugged, silent and awe-inspiring.

After a few days' camping in Jordan's wild, arid interior, it is time to get my feet wet.

Heading south, I don a snorkel to explore the Red Sea coral reef and potter around this colourful underwater garden for an afternoon, before coming up for a fish lunch.

My final destination is water of a less hospitable kind. Circled by a glittering necklace of salt crystals, the Dead Sea is a cruel irony in a country with such water problems. Dense with salt, you cannot drink it or swim in it, and the only creatures able to live in it are two hardy species of bacteria.

Walking in, your legs are pushed from under you and you bob about like a cork.

Conflict may be more than a minor character in Jordan's grand narrative, but its warm, sanguine people and extraordinary landscape are the real story.

FACT FILE: JORDAN

Time difference	+ 2/3 hours (GMT)
Language	Arabic
Capital	Amman
Population	4.4 million
Religion	Majority Sunni Muslims
Currency	Dinar
Climate	Arid

Travel facts

Kelly Macnamara was a guest of the Jordan Tourism Board and flew direct to Amman from Heathrow with bmi, which costs from £494 return. Regional connections to London from Aberdeen, Glasgow and Manchester cost from about £80 return.

BMI reservations: 0870 6070 555 and www.flybmi.com
Tour operator Exodus offers a nine-day Jordan trip to Petra, Wadi Rum, Red Sea and Dead Sea from £599, land-only price.

Exodus reservations: 0845 863 9600 and www.exodus.co.uk

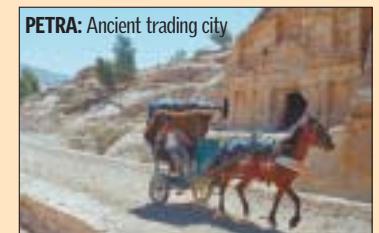
Jordan Tourism Board enquiries: 020 7371 6494 and www.visitjordan.com

You can book most camping spots, including Dana, through The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature website (www.rscn.org.jo).

Contact Mzied for details of Wadi Rum camping (www.mzied.com)

For more information about the Kempinski Ishtar, visit www.kempinski-deadsea.com

PETRA: Ancient trading city



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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

THE BIG BANG THEORY

Channel 4, 9.30pm, Thursday

I STUMBLED upon The Big Bang Theory about a year ago, after Channel 4 started screening it on Thursday nights.

Shamelessly under-promoted, this remains one of the better comedy shows out there, and has gathered a real cult following in the States.

Centring on the lives of two college super-brained, flat-sharing geeks, with IQs that make Carol Vorderman look like a village idiot, the pair get into the usual sitcom scrapes.

They juggle their love lives, Klingon Boggle marathons and trying to impress the super hot girl next door, Penny, a waitress with one eye on Hollywood and the other on Leonard, the show's principal lead.

Very much a foil to move the story along, Penny takes the geeks where no geeks have gone before.

It's Jim Parson's portrayal of the spiky and prodigious Dr Sheldon Cooper that steals the show, though.

Neurotic, exacting to a fault, and with the kind of waspish nature that is often so bizarre it borders on psychotic, it is the kind of turn that steals almost every show – that would steal any show – and should net the actor a gong or two come the next award season.

Even more remarkable is the fact he is actually aged 36 and not once looks out of place playing the role of the physician still in his early 20s.

Thrown into the mix to keep things interesting are two more oddballs.

There is the sex-obsessed and Jewish mother dominated Howard Wolowitz, who is never one to sidestep sleazing his way into any female's affections and Rajesh Koothrappali, the shy one who cannot utter a word.



BIG BANG: Jim Parsons is simply excellent in his portrayal of uber geek Dr Sheldon Cooper

to any woman he finds attractive.

I can't say this is a total blinder, and the canned laughter can be a little hard to put up with, but TBBT is certainly as good as any other light comedy coming out of America right now.

It's short, snappily written and improving all the time.

It's hard to see that this is going to appeal to anyone who is not into sarcastic fast-moving sitcoms but those who like that sort of thing will most likely appreciate this.

It also has the best theme tune on TV, sung by Barenaked Ladies, a band born to perform such a thing if ever there was.

Perhaps it is the geek, and not the meek, who shall inherit the Earth.

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

YOUR conscience is really starting to bother you. Maybe it's time to explain to a colleague where you went wrong. Of course, your relationship will undergo tremendous strain as a result, but at least you'll be giving them a chance to heal. Your financial picture is looking good.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

PEER pressure is rearing its ugly head. It looks as though you'll have to break ranks, if only as a way to cut costs. There's no point in going to restaurants or clubs you can't afford. If friends can't understand find more supportive companions. On the romantic front, you're making progress.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

POWER struggles are likely with an overbearing boss. No amount of flattery will help you get around them. You're better off following their orders and let the chips fall where they may. Avoid buying any gadgets, as you'll just have to return them later. Faulty equipment abounds.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

A CONTROLLING friend, workmate or lover is getting on your nerves, assert yourself, before the entire relationship goes south. Continuing to give in to their demands is undermining your self esteem. Don't reveal somebody's secret, or you'll pay a hefty price for your indiscretion.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

CONDITIONS at home have become unbearable. Your family is pressuring you to adopt values that make no sense for your lifestyle. It's more important to satisfy yourself than fit in. If that means suspending communications with certain relatives, so be it. Patience will be rewarded.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

YOUR overbearing behaviour is starting to chafe on family members. As much as you hate to admit it, you cannot save people from themselves. If somebody decides to take a dangerous path, get out of their way. If you're dealing with a youngster, try to see things from their view.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761



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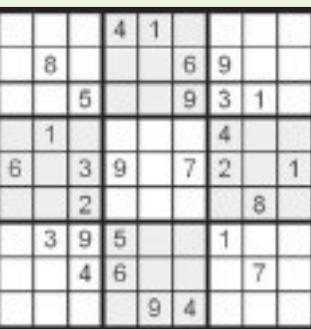
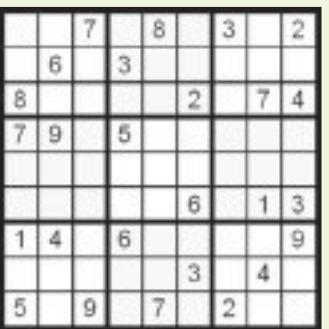
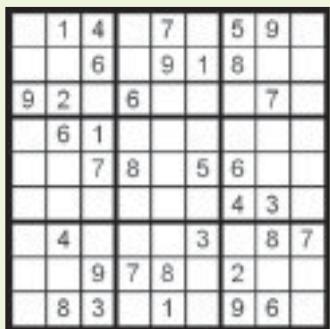


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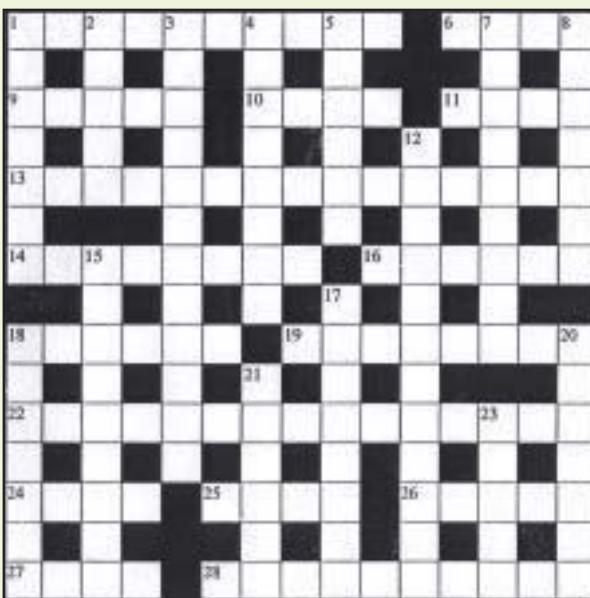
Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY**MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Live stroke in advance (10)
 6 Which French duke had money? (4)
 9 Go over again corn initially during harvest (5)
 10 Drop off at twelve almost (4)
 11 Tie at speed (4)
 13 Handy drawing (9,6)
 14 Contained in old records vicar Hal unearthed (8)
 16 Lady in network (6)
 18 Indian child in nursery (6)
 19 Polly got round multilingualist (8)
 22 One who is shy pressing only one flower (9,6)
 24 Reported girl with wrong cat (4)
 25 You had resistance leaving trio (4)
 26 Excited Ada up from Italian city (5)
 27 Expedition leader went inside parched nest (4)
 28 Song rather discordant not designed to go the distance (5-5)

DOWN

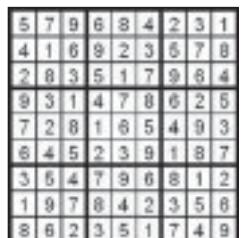
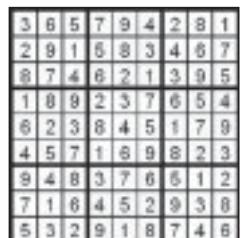
- 1 Clerical overhead? (7)
 2 In a terrific hurry to get a cape (5)
 3 Bringing out for at least the second time (12)
 4 Hurried, say, on a road to refuge (8)
 5 Open end of tube (6)
 7 Strained one French note (9)
 8 Did include square revolutionary who had been abandoned (7)
 12 Thin bird, one getting into the water with nothing on (6-6)
 15 Space allowed for removal of obstructions (9)
 17 Long-jumper, not MP, becoming itinerant minstrel (8)
 18 Actors went first and changed positions (7)
 20 In laboratory, measure speed of small bird? (7)
 21 The last Henry's position (6)
 23 Eland struggled weighed down (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE**QUICK CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Incomparable (10)
 6 Bible passage (4)
 9 Deceive (5)
 10 Conceited (4)
 11 Anniversary of death (4)
 13 Veal cutlet (6)
 14 Condemn openly (8)
 16 Mixture (6)
 18 Cheerful (6)
 19 Armorial (8)
 22 Very pure (6,4,5)
 24 Milky gem (4)
 25 Gold-coloured (4)
 26 Drunkard (5)

27 Always (4)**28 Famous (10)****DOWN**

- 1 Not overcome (7)
 2 Avoid (5)
 3 Not often visited (12)
 4 Languishing with amorous desire (8)
 5 Elijah's successor (6)
 7 Acted fraudulently (9)
 8 Wholly (7)
 12 Effervescent drink (7,5)
 15 Wink (9)
 17 Pear-tree (anag.) (8)
 18 Mandible (7)
 20 Gladened (7)
 21 Industrial action (6)
 23 Computer data (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No86****EASY****MEDIUM****HARD**

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No85

ACROSS: 1 Unequalled 6 Text 9 Bluff 10 Vain 11 Obit 13 Wiener schnitzel 14 Denounce 16 Medley 18 Jocund 19 Heraldic 22 Whiter than white 24 Opal 25 Gift 26 Toper 27 Ever 28 Celebrated. **DOWN:** 1 Unbowed 2 Elude 3 Unrequited 4 Lovescick 5 Elisha 7 Embroidered 8 Totally 12 Mineral water 15 Nictitate 17 Repartee 18 Jawbone 20 Cheered 21 Strike 23 Input.

QUICK SOLUTION No86

15 Undepict 16 Unbeam 17 Macie 19 6 Relatevert 7 Excel 9 Jeen 14 Musaeum 15 Burstsweak 3 Member 4 Shyman 5 Oggiante 16 Instinct 27 Woman 28 Zestfull 2

24 Totahsome 25 Specialeader 26 one man 27 Melting up 28 Lido 22 Seatre 29 30 Fischemer 31 tile 27 Loin 32 As

block 10 Scourge 8 Swimming

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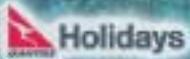
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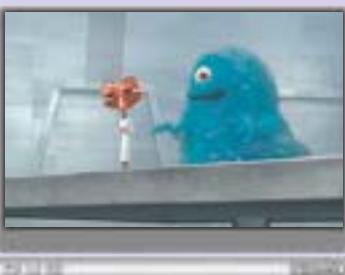
Peter is engaged to the woman of his dreams. In a series of 'man dates' to find a best man, he meets Sydney, the best friend he never had, but is forced to choose between his fiancée and his new buddy.

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN (PG)



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MONSTERS VS ALIENS (PG)



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Hollywood hunk loves his life as a family man

BY ELLIE GENOWER

TURNING 40 is reason enough for many people to have a mini mid-life crisis.

But Matthew McConaughey, who celebrates the big 4-0 this November, isn't too worried.

In fact, this laidback Hollywood hunk is pretty pleased with the way life is going, especially being a dad to nine-month-old Levi, his son with Brazilian model Camila Alves.

"I look at it as like they're new chapters," he says. "Finding a woman I want to settle down with was a new chapter; having Levi – a new chapter, same book."

McConaughey's real life is a far cry from his latest character in new comedy *Ghosts Of Girlfriends Past*.

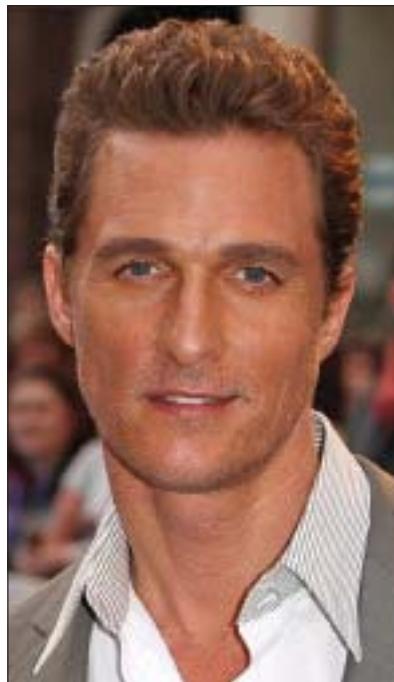
He plays womanising celebrity photographer Connor, who thinks nothing of breaking up with multiple women on a conference call while arranging his next date.

"Connor is really not out to hurt anyone, he just wants to have a good time," says the actor. "But he's also a guy who has lost his way and doesn't know it."

Connor's romantic scepticism proves to be a bit of a downer on the eve of his brother Paul's wedding and doesn't impress his houseful of guests, including his childhood friend Jenny (Jennifer Garner), who has no patience with Connor's philandering ways.

But that night Connor is visited by the ghost of his late Uncle Wayne (Michael Douglas), who shows Connor where he's going wrong by taking him through a revealing past, present and future odyssey of failed relationships.

"The ghosts were a big unrealistic thing, but that's just one of the things that made this one original," says the star, who is well known for



LAID BACK: Leading man Matthew McConaughey

his roles in rom-coms like *Fool's Gold* and *Failure To Launch*.

McConaughey admits he isn't too bothered about tying the knot with Camila.

"Am I getting married in the future? Not today," he says. "I don't have any plans for it."

With several movies under his belt and a sex symbol image to boot, he has had to get used

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to increased interest in his personal life, especially since baby Levi came along.

"I personally don't choose to retreat or hide out," he says. "I didn't know what the hell stardom was about and didn't expect it," he adds. "I like how it's going. I'm happy."

Things may have changed for the actor in the past 20 years, but he says Levi's arrival hasn't altered his way of life.

He seems pleased to be able to incorporate Levi into his often-nomadic lifestyle.

"We've been to Brazil twice, Italy and France and Germany. And we've gone 7,300 miles on a road-trip in the Airstream (caravan) for 42 days, so we've had a lot of the same adventures we would have had before Levi came along, we've just brought him along with us."

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST
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Enjoy a summer holiday by the sea on the Somerset coast. Set in 17 acres of landscaped gardens near a long sandy beach, Sand Bay is a couple of miles from Weston-Super-Mare. Leisure facilities include an indoor swimming pool, games room with darts, table tennis & short-mat bowls, a snooker room with five full size tables, 2 petanque pitches, 2 outdoor short-mat bowls greens, an 18-hole putting green & 2 9-hole crazy golf courses. Accommodation is in single-storey en-suite chalets with colour TV and tea/coffee tray. Each evening there is entertainment featuring the Best of British comedy and tribute acts.

Sand Bay is a few minutes from Junction 21 of the M5, offering easy access from all over the country. The resort provides free parking and assistance with luggage is available - just part of the personal service all guests can count on.

As a self-drive visitor, you'll find Sand Bay is well-placed to visit a host of West Country attractions. The cities of Bath, Bristol & Wells are a short drive and offer a wealth of diversity from Brunel's steam ship, the SS Great Britain (in Bristol), the ancient Roman Baths (in Bath) and Britain's most beautiful cathedral (in Wells). There's plenty of unspoilt coastal scenery nearby, from the sandy beaches of Burnham and Weston Super Mare to the dramatic cliffs and coves of the Exmoor coast.

PRICE INCLUDES: 4 nights in a twin or double en-suite chalet • 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts

- Entertainment every evening

Isle of Wight Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange

Friday, November 27 to 30 • Tour **NP11**

**3 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD+
JUST
£179pp
SELF DRIVE
CAR FERRY
INCLUDED**

Enjoy an early taste of Christmas at our Isle of Wight Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange. You'll find a fun-filled party atmosphere with festive food and entertainment and we've included a **Free Bar** every day to help the party go with a swing. You'll enjoy the traditional Warner benefits of quality accommodation, a proper breakfast and 3-course dinner each day and live entertainment every evening.

PRICE INCLUDES: 3 nights in a twin/double en-suite chalet • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • Free bar every day - from 3.30pm to 11pm on Day 1 and 12noon to 11pm on subsequent days (not departure day) - includes house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Festive food & live entertainment • Return coach travel or self drive with car ferry included



Isle of Wight Summer Holiday at Warner Norton Grange

Monday, July 13 to 17 • Tour **NS7**

**4 NIGHTS
HALF BOARD
ONLY
£269pp
SELF DRIVE
CAR FERRY
INCLUDED**

Set among landscaped gardens, Norton Grange has a distinctly tropical feel. The resort overlooks the Solent and has a wide range of activities on offer, including a heated indoor pool, all-weather bowls, a fitness studio, archery, snooker, darts and more.

Live nightly entertainment includes cabaret and dancing with Warner's in-house entertainment team and visiting artists to add variety. We've added a 50p bar from 12 noon to 11pm every day for house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee. Accommodation is in en-suite chalets located near the entertainment and restaurant venues. All rooms are en-suite with colour TV and hospitality tray.

PRICE INCLUDES: 4 nights in a twin/double en-suite chalet • 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts • 50p bar every day - from 12noon to 11pm - includes house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Live cabaret entertainment • Self drive with car ferry included

Isle of Wight Party & Dance Break at Warner Bembridge Coast

Friday, January 15 to 18, 2010 • Tour **BW1**

**3 NIGHTS
ALL
INCLUSIVE***
£239pp
SELF DRIVE
CAR FERRY
INCLUDED

Bembridge Coast Character Hotel stands on a glorious, unspoilt stretch of Isle of Wight coastline with uninterrupted views across the Solent. Join us as we celebrate **GN Holidays' 12th birthday** with a Private party to banish the winter blues with a packed programme of entertainment, featuring star cabaret, dancing demonstrations and tuition, and much, much, more - oh, and **Free Drinks!** You'll enjoy Warner's usual quality accommodation and cuisine with breakfast and 3-course dinner included each day. We've arranged for a free bar and dancing sessions every day. You'll see champion dancers in cabaret and the daily dance sessions will include learn-and-improve workshops for those wishing to brush up their skill levels. Travel options include coach transfers from local joining points (subject to minimum numbers) or self-drive with car ferry included.

PRICE INCLUDES: 3 nights in a twin or double en-suite Ambassador room (upgrades available) • 3 dinners • 3 breakfasts *lunch not included • Free bar every day - from 3.30pm to 11pm on Day 1 and 12noon to 11pm on subsequent days (not departure day) - includes house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Live cabaret entertainment • Champion dancers in cabaret • Learn-and-Improve Dance Sessions



Holiday operated by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: sales@gnholidays.com

For more information and bookings call **01895 83 33 33** quoting the Tour Code



PROPERTY NEWS

Gloom hasn't lifted says builders' survey

THE latest State of Trade Survey from the Federation of Master Builders makes for gloomy reading.

It reports that a total of 73 per cent of small building firms have seen a decline in workloads. A further 66 per cent reported a decline for the commercial property sector in the first quarter of 2009. Although morale was reported to be poor with builders' expectations at a low level, there was one note of cheer.

In the non-residential public sector some 14 per cent of FMB builders saw their workloads increase.

Richard Diment, director-general of the FMB, said: "Given the weak economic outlook, the negative workload responses from FMB builders are hardly surprising as this general gloom surrounding the UK's future economic prospects convinces many companies to put expansions, moves, and new office building on hold for the foreseeable future."

The survey indicated there may be a slowing in the rate of decline in private housing, public non-residential new build, and public non-residential repair and maintenance.

Ways to help people up the property ladder

WARD Homes has reported a strong sales performance in the first three months of the year, adding to hopes that the worst of the economic downturn has passed.

The company has already sold 79 homes in 2009. The company says its success is down to competitive prices and deals to suit all kinds of buyers.

All but 10 homes have now been sold at Kings Hill, near West Malling, and just seven homes remain in the current phase at Eden Village, Sittingbourne.

Throughout the region, properties are selling at a rate of nearly two per week.

"We have seen a strong performance in terms of the number of homes sold and visitors to our sites in the last few months as more and more people realise that now could be the time to buy," said Tim Nabbs, sales director at Ward Homes.

"We have a number of ways to help our customers move up the property ladder.

"If you're a first time buyer you could move in for just 70 per cent of the price under the HomeBuy Direct scheme, which we operate in conjunction with the Government's Homes and Communities Agency."



Housing market shows signs of revival for buyers but not sellers

■ BY NICK AMES

BUYERS have been returning to the property market during the spring, according to a new survey.

The National Association of Estate Agents has seen a small increase in house sales.

This follows reports this week from the Council of Mortgage Lenders and HM Revenue & Customs who said lending and agreed sales were on the up.

However, the association has said the Chancellor Alistair Darling missed an opportunity to help the housing market in the Budget.

Signs the market was bottoming out have been approached cautiously in recent weeks, with experts warning the housing market is still in a fragile state.

However, the association research found the number of house hunters registering with estate agents was up 12 per cent, with the number of agreed sales per agent increased from eight to nine, from February to March.

The average house price, however, was 6.38 per cent lower than the actual asking price, although this appears to have drawn first-time buyers back into the market.

Association member Richard Copus said: "The market has definitely been showing signs of a revival in March. But like the weather, it is likely to be changeable and must be treated with caution."

Experts said the increased sales per agent were "the largest average figure for more than a year and a great source of optimism for the industry", with the number of house hunters at their highest levels for a year, indicating home buyer confidence was returning. However, the story for sellers was somewhat more pes-



SELLING UP: Experts warn the market is still in a fragile state despite a reported increase in the number of house hunters

simistic, with the average number of properties on estate agents books falling from 74 in February to 67 in March.

An association spokesman said: "This is a potentially worrying indicator, as it suggests that sellers are not confident of getting the best possible price for their property."

"It is likely to reflect a view that the period of consistent house price falls is coming to an end - meaning those with property to sell feel it might better serve their interests to delay for a number of months and try to catch an upturn."

Lee Bramzell, chief executive of PropertyIndex.com, said: "Over

recent months we have seen a steady trickle of positive news from across the housing industry, suggesting that buyers really are being tempted back into the market.

"While we still have a long way to go before we return to strong house price growth I believe the tide is beginning to turn."

"Many buyers now believe that the bottom of the market is approaching and as a result, they are starting to take action to ensure they don't miss out."

The association earlier said Mr Darling should have done more to help first time buyers returning to the market, and that his extension on the Stamp Duty threshold

will do little to encourage them to buy their first home.

Chris Brown, president said: "This is a token gesture that will be presented as a benefit to first-time buyers but is in reality irrelevant to two thirds of them."

"Our figures show that first-time buyers came back to the market in droves in January, making up 25 per cent of sales."

"The figure has only dipped slightly since then and in March was 23 per cent. The Chancellor's measures will do little to consolidate that resurgence in interest."

"If the number falls again next month then we will know that confidence is dropping in the wake of a botched Budget."

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119 Church Road, Willesborough,
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Ashford OIEO £199,000

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Sellinge OIRO £184,999

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Willesborough OIEO £170,000

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3 Bedroom Semi, 2 Reception Rooms, 2 Large Gardens, No Chain.

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3 Bedroom Terrace, No Chain, Substantial Rear Garden, Off Road Parking.

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Ashford £140,000

2 Double Bedrooms, No Chain, Ground Floor W.C, Town Centre Location.

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Ashford £135,000

3 Bedroom End Of Terrace, Conservatory, Garage, Private Secluded Position.

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Kennington £130,000

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Park Farm OIEO £130,000

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Singleton OIEO £125,000

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Source: * Customer satisfaction survey, Dec 2007
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SOUTH ASHFORD OIEO £110,000
2 bedroom period terrace house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, inner lobby, downstairs bathroom. Rear garden measuring 105ft. Near to town and station.

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STANHOPE OIEO £118,000
4 bedroom end of terrace house. Lounge, kitchen/diner, ground floor cloakroom, family bathroom. No onward chain.

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KINGSNORTH £129,950
2 bedroom mid terrace house. Entrance hall, modern kitchen, lounge/diner, kitchen and modern white bathroom. Allocated parking for 2 cars and enclosed rear garden.

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SOUTH ASHFORD £135,000
3 bedroom terrace house in need of modernisation. Lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, ground floor bathroom, upstairs WC, rear garden.

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SOUTH ASHFORD £139,995
3 bedroom end of terrace house. 2 reception rooms, utility room, downstairs WC, bathroom and enclosed rear garden.

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SOUTH ASHFORD £145,000
3 bedroom end of terrace house. 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom, garden, no onward chain.

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WILLESBOROUGH OIEO £160,000
1920's style 3 bedroom semi detached with through lounge/diner, kitchen, utility, downstairs bathroom and lean to, garage, rear mature garden, central heating and double glazing.

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WILLESBOROUGH £175,000
3 bedroom semi detached house. Lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, shower room, rear enclosed garden, off street parking.

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GODINTON PARK £179,995
NO CHAIN 3 bedroom end of terrace house. Porch, lounge, conservatory, dining room, kitchen, family bathroom. Not overlooked rear garden, off road allocated parking.

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ASHFORD £210,000
4 bedroom semi detached Victorian property. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, 3 double bedrooms, shower room and to the second floor, bedroom 4.

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CHARING £215,000
No Chain* 3 bedroom semi detached house on large plot. Lounge & dining room, kitchen, utility, front, rear and side gardens, carport and driveway parking.

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BETHERSDEN £219,995
3 bedroom semi detached house. 3 receptions, sought after village location, no onward chain, driveway parking.

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ASHFORD £225,000
3 bedroom Edwardian terrace house in desirable location. 2 reception rooms, conservatory, downstairs WC, family bathroom and not overlooked rear garden.

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SOUTH ASHFORD £225,000
Detached bungalow, 3rd bedroom/dining room, rear & side gardens, cul de sac location.

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WILLESBOROUGH OIRO £299,995
No chain period detached house. Study, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, downstairs WC, basement room, 4 bedrooms, master with en suite, family bathroom.

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BROOK OIEO £325,000
Detached bungalow, porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, 2 bedrooms, bathroom. To the first floor, 2 further double bedrooms and additional bathroom.

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CHALLOCK £325,000
5 bed property in a cul de sac location. Downstairs cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast room, brick-built conservatory, study, lounge, en suite & dressing room to master & family bath. Double attached garage.

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KENNINGTON £329,995
Detached house. Study area, lounge with fireplace, kitchen/ breakfast room , dining room, 3 double bedrooms, master with an en-suite, dressing area & bathroom. Parking for 2/3 cars.

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RUCKINGE OIEO £395,000
Rural 4 bedroom detached bungalow with outstanding views of countryside set in approx. 4.4 acres. Lounge, family room, kitchen, utility space, bathroom.

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PLUCKLEY £525,000
Plot of approx 6 acres. 2 reception, 3 bed with one en suite, family bathroom & modern fitted kitchen. Planning permission for a double extension. Stables and paddocks, a range of outbuildings, garage.

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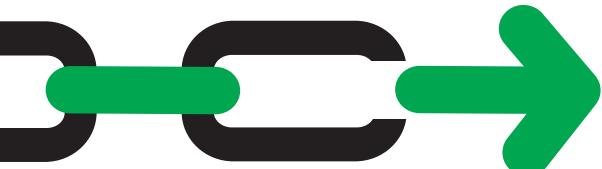
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Ruckinge | £575,000

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- Log Cabin, Formal Gardens, Approx. 2 Acres

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- Superb Detached House, Lovely Village Setting
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Willesborough | £160,000-£180,000

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- Rear Garden with Westerly Aspect

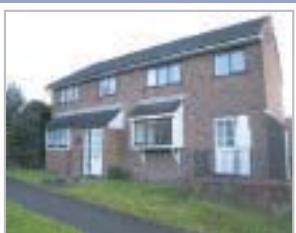
ASHFORD OFFICE | 01233 639531



Willesborough | £150,000-£180,000

- 3 beds, 2 receptions, Garage,
- Corner Plot, GCH, Double glazed
- No onward chain, Scope to extend

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St. Michaels | £140,000

- 2 bedroom Village Home good local amenities
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- Garage End of Chain for Sale

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Chartfields**£235,000**

4 bed detached house. 2 receptions room, downstairs cloakroom, kitchen, en suite to master and bathroom

Kennington**£249,995**

4 bed detached house. DS WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, en suite shower room, bathroom

Sevington**£249,995**

4 bed detached house. DS WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, en suite shower room, bathroom

Kennington**£269,950**

4 bedroom detached house. No Chain. 2 receptions, downstairs WC, utility, kitchen, 2 en suites, garage

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Connells

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- Four bedroom detached house
- 2 receptions, two bathrooms
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Ashford £250,000



- Four bedroom detached house
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- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen & utility room

Ashford £225,000



- Four bedroom detached house
- Favoured Orchard Heights location
- Two receptions & conservatory
- Kitchen & utility room

Kennington £269,950



- Four bedroom detached house
- Two en-suites, family bathroom/wc
- Lounge & dining room
- Kitchen/breakfast room & utility

Kingsnorth £240,000



- Detached 7 month old house
- 4 bedrooms (master en-suite)
- Lounge with bay window
- Separate dining room

Ashford £217,500



- Detached 3 bedroom house
- En-suite to master bedroom
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Large rear garden

Park Farm £214,995



- 3 bedrooms, en-suite to master
- Hall with double doors to lounge
- Lounge with dual aspect windows
- Dining room with French doors to garden

Hamstreet £199,995



- Detached bungalow
- Two double bedrooms
- Large rear garden
- Garage & driveway, No Chain

Ashford £195,000



- Three bedrooms, GCH
- Large lounge/diner
- Two basement rooms
- Permit parking

Singleton £185,000



- 3 double bedrooms, master en-suite
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Ex Hillreed show home
- NHBC, approx 6 years remaining

Willesborough £185,000



- Four bedroom mid terrace house
- Secluded private road location
- Many original features remain
- Lounge & kitchen/diner

Willesborough £169,950



- 3 bedrooms, two receptions
- Conservatory, secluded garden
- Convenient for schools, station & shops
- ORP, Early occupation available

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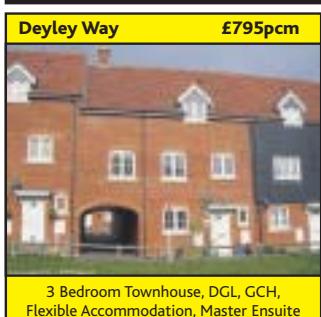
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MOTORS NEWS



Scrapage scheme dream deal options

ONE benefit of the Budget's £2,000 scrapage scheme is the decent discounts never available before on certain cars.

Nowhere is this more obvious than on BMW and Mini (pictured) models and there are even offers over and above the Government scheme.

Someone keen to upgrade to a new BMW, for instance, could get a 116i Sport for £242 a month, with zero deposit and immediately save money through the car's eco-friendly EfficientDynamics technology – on top of a total discount/grant of £3,260.



'Optimal Auris' brings more go and less gas

MOST manufacturers offer eco versions of key models, but Toyota is 'greening' whole car ranges after dismantling the internal combustion engine and reassembling it in new 'Optimal Drive' powertrains.

These save money and the conscience with apparently contradictory benefits: more power plus better economy with lower CO2 emissions/road tax, and are now available in revised Auris family hatch models (from £12,900).

The UK-built 131bhp 1.6-litre petrol option offers nine per cent better economy, eight per cent lower CO2 emissions and six per cent than before.



Octavia trouper stage comeback

HAVING upgraded mainstream Octavia versions in late 2008, Skoda has unveiled sporty vRS and rugged Scout facelifts.

The vRS option has been a huge success for the VW-owned Czech brand; 70 per cent have sold in the estate format as a cut-price performance load lugger to rival BMW and Audi's finest.

The Scout, with its rough and tough adds-ons, 4x4 and high-riding stance, has also been popular with those needing some go anywhere ability without big off-roader bodywork. Prices are to be confirmed.



IMPROVEMENT: The Hyundai i10 was launched with a 1.1 litre engine – that has now been replaced by a livelier and smoother 1.2 litre unit which takes the car to another level

Hyundai i10 catches up thanks to engine upgrade

ROAD TEST HYUNDAI i10

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

Head and legroom for all and comfort levels are good and this high-roof car can be crammed like a van when rear seats are folded.

Some textured trimming looks cheap though and the steering wheel feels low rent on Classic and Comfort spec; I would not normally advocate going for any top spec model, but a leather-covered wheel is just one luxury to recommend our flagship i10 Style test car (£8,195).

It costs £1,100 more than poverty spec Classic, but you get alloys, heated front seats, a storage tray beneath the passenger seat, an electric sunroof and rear spoiler.

That's on top of generous standard kit including air-con and front electric windows, plus some thoughtful design.

The boot, for instance, is not only spacious for this class, but has two bins beneath the floor as well as a compartmentalised tray above the space saver spare wheel – plenty of stowage to capture those odds 'n' sods that accumulate.

It is a motoring package a long way from the Hyundai of five years ago, yet still has the famous five-year warranty and value for money that kept the brand in the game while catching up with European carmakers.



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07 57 Seat Ibiza 1.2 Reference 5dr (70)	Parker's Price £6,285	Save £486* Our Price from £5,799
05 55 Renault Megane 1.9 dCi 120 Dynamique 5dr	Parker's Price £6,495	Save £496* Our Price from £5,999

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Deposit £2,299	Total charge for credit £1,387.24
One monthly payment** £294	Mileage per annum 6,000
Final payment [†] £2,841.56	Excess mileage charge per mile 14.9p
Total amount payable £8,886.24	APR 11.9%

*£195 Credit Facility Fee is included in the first monthly payment. [†]A £35 Completion Fee is included in the Final Payment.

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Aveo £350, Captiva £400). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost (Matiz and Aveo £249, Captiva £349). Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th June 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev71674)

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km. Captiva 2.4 Petrol LS 5-seat: Urban - 23.5 (12.0), Extra-urban - 39.8 (7.1), Combined - 31.7 (8.9). CO₂ emissions 217g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO₂ emissions 119g/km.

USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BUDGET ALTERNATIVES

SCRAPPING your old car in exchange for £2,000 towards a new one dominated motoring headlines in the latest Budget, but this still leaves some drivers short of cash to upgrade. Fortunately, the used market offers many used city cars and superminis and most are frugal; some even fall into the desirable £35/year road tax banding. Even if they don't, fuel savings should soon make you happier with trading up to or downsizing to something more in step with greener and more wallet-friendly motoring. Check this trio of alternative budget deals.

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S baby was deservedly European Car of the Year in 2004. It shows that a space efficient interior does not have to go with a dull utilitarian exterior – the Panda could function as a van, but looks far more interesting. The distinctive five-door Italian is also fun to drive and cheap to tax, insure and fuel, yet features cutting-edge technology. A lively turbodiesel option – averaging 65+mpg – rugged 4x4 version and hot 100hp model add to the line-up's attractions.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

HYUNDAI GETZ



IT is ageing now, but the Getz signalled Hyundai's arrival on the European motor scene, with a thoroughly modern supermini. It does not excel in any area really, but neither does the Korean car fall short anywhere either. Available in three and five-door form with a five-year warranty, it also has some engines in road tax band-B, including an efficient diesel. Securing a good deal – with some warranty intact.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

FORD KA



THOUGH given the chop this year, the original Ka remains in demand as a used budget buy. The engines are geriatric, but dependable and the quirky-looking three-door city car/supermini makes a good, distinctive and affordable runabout. There are plenty on the market to choose from and if it has a fault, then it is that the distinctive styling tends to attract women buyers – and put off the blokes – but it drives well, being based on a previous Fiesta.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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FOCUS. 1.8 Zetec 5dr, hp08xeax, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated screen, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, insurance group:7, grey, 17159 miles, £9995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS. 1.6 Zetec 5dr [Climate pack], abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, driver airbag, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seat, insurance group:6, blue, 33393 miles, £7995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS. 1.6 Zetec 3dr, air conditioning, alloy wheels, side airbags, radio/cd, power assisted steering, insurance group:7, black, 778 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. 260 SWB Low Roof Van TDCi, af07muv, panel van, finance available, pcp, warranty, white, 32295 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. 280 SWB Low Roof Van 2.0, na56ebo, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, ply lined, swb, warranty, white, 18036 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. High Roof Van TDCi, nd05oxo, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, lwb, ply lined, warranty, white, 45801 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. Low Roof Van TD 75ps, bl06kwa, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, ply lined, swb, white, 35000 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. LWB High Roof Van 2.4 TDCi T350, wr56uwv, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp+leasing, lwb, pop, ply lined, white, 40211 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. High Roof Van TDi 115PS, ly08gjv, 115 ps, panel van, cd player, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp+leasing, lwb, ply lined, warranty, 3 seater, white, 20432 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. High Roof Van 115PS **REDUCED IN PRICE***, pe07kux, 115 ps, panel van, cd player, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp+leasing, lwb, ply lined, warranty, 3 seater, white, 49548 miles, £9990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. High Roof Van TDi 90ps, na55ejy, 90 ps, panel van, mot-10-2009, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp+leasing, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:3, green, 51500 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC. 2.2 i-CTDi Sport 5dr, oe05ewl, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, climate control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:10, silver, 31000 miles, £10995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

JAZZ. 1.4-i-DSi SE Sport 5dr CVT-7, gk53mup, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:4, grey, 51500 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

GETZ. Low Roof Van TDi 85ps, ng06roh, swb, white, 32000 miles, £5990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT. SPORT VAN 110PS **DELIVERY MILEAGE***, 58, 110 ps, panel van, alloy wheels, cd player, electric windows, full leather, rear park assist, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, insurance group:3, red, 40000 miles, £3495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

KIA

PICANTO. 1.1 GSi 3dr, gf05cww, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, immobiliser, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, insurance group:3, red, 4000 miles, £12990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MAZDA

BT-50. Ix08ymg, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, warranty, warranted mileage, silver, 3468 miles, £7999, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

MERCEDES-BENZ

VITO. 111cdi xlong 2.2, ey04phz, panel van, mot-10-2009, electric windows, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, lwb, red, 57500 miles, £5990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

COLT. 1.5 CZC3 2dr, gk09nwt, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, headrests, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, insurance group:7, orange, 100 miles, £10995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

OUTLANDER. II 2.0 DI-DC Warrior 5dr, lx57xsl, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, head restraints, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:4, grey, 11675 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

107. 1.0 Sport XS 3dr, gj07tuv, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, immobiliser, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:1, black, 17300 miles, £15995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

I-CAR. 5dr Auto, gn09gzw, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, driver airbag, folding rear seats, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:3, red, 19232 miles, £4495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

207. 1.4 Urban 3dr, gk57vnx, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, colour coding interior, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, folding rear seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear, remote locking, tinted glass, insurance group:4, saving, silver, 500 miles, £7993, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

RENAULT

L200. 2.5TD Trojan Double Cab, ro06hza, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, black, 51000 miles, £14615 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER. 1.6 Equipe 5dr Auto, gf57ylr, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:9, black, 15000 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CLIO. 1.2 16V Campus Sport i-music 2007 3dr, al56law, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, insurance group:3, blue, 16000 miles, £5995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SUBARU

IMPREZA. 2.0 WRX AWD Turbo 4dr, ek54jv, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, side airbags, radio/cd, sports seats, insurance group:20, blue, 31500 miles, £8995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

YARIS. 1.0 VVT-i Colour Collection 3dr, lk55xsj, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group:2, silver, 26000 miles, £4995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

ASTRA. 1.6 SXI Digital 5dr, eo05hyh, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, immobiliser, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, sports seats, insurance group:6, black, 23000 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 5ft6, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

SEEKING MR DADDY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

GET A STRIKE

African, single mum, caring, adventurous, generous, 30yrs old, medium build. I love cinema/TV, music, bowling, shopping, cosy nights in. Box 882789

HAPPY SHOPPER!

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTM loving, caring white male, 35-47, for long-term, loving relationship. No time-wasters. Box 444214

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CARING, CONSIDERATE, HOPEFULLY YOURS

Lovely young lady, 33, 5ft8, cuddly larger build, single mum, seeking kind, caring, honest and genuine man for fun/friendship... hopefully more. Box 450371

CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent-based, into most things, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

DON'T LET ME DOWN

Pretty, black female, 38, 5ft4, like football, socialising and cooking, looking for a loving and caring male, 38-42, for a LTR. Box 446684

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTM honest, reliable man. Box 451311

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**HISTORIC MEETING?**

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

LOVE TO LOVE

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

LOOKING FOR A LOVING CHAP

Ashford-based woman looking for an honest, friendly, caring and loving man. I have two kids and enjoy the usual things in life. Box 446985

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552

THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music, seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40 yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 446542

JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great smile, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434

TIME TO LIVE AGAIN

Lovely 40y old mum, average build, brown hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 448149

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy blonde, 39y old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out. WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

NO TIES

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 442971

HERE & NOW

Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, sees man to love forever. Box 449524

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft4, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, wine seeks same male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 442971

THE REAL THING

Lively bubbly lady, 52, brown hair blue eyes, 5ft7, medium build, likes travel, walks, documentaries, films, seeking male with GSOH for fun-loving relationship. Box 451255

YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU CALL...

Young looking, hard working 53y old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with GSOH. Non-smoker. Heatherfield. Box 884310

COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female, 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

LOVING IT LARGE

Spiritual 44y old female, enjoys gardening, cooking and walks on the beach, WLTM a warm, loving and caring male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 444803

SOUND GOOD?

Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair, blue eyes, reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy more... fun, friend and more! Box 449765

FANCY A DRINK?

Intelligent lady, 40, blonde hair, blue eyes, loves the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTM fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello I'm Nikki, 41y young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing; seeks a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 444796

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal male 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE?

Hi I'm Mandy, chocolate brown hair, blue eyes, 48, seeking human male (preferably) for nights out, socialising, clubbing, meals, lots of laughs and much more. Box 425952

A COMPANION FOR LIFE?

Blonde lady, 56, 5ft5, medium build, attractive, devoted ready to start dating again and seeking male who loves travel, theatre, walks, cinema and more. Box 448449

SHOULD OUT FOR A HERO

Londoner new to the area, 57, 5ft5, slim attractive blonde, seeking a man for serious relationship and lasting happiness. Box 449587

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

I HAVE A DREAM

Bubbly, bubbly curvy female, 59, looks younger, fun to be with, honest, seeks caring male to be with, hopefully GSOH. Box 883891

HAPPY AS ME

Fun-to-be-with, happy, contented lady, 60, 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening, pets. Box 882812

THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE

59yr old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kindred spirit who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143

SONEBODY TO LAUGH WITH...

Loving lady looking for companion, 63, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, loves dancing, walks and animals; seeks similar male with great SOH for lasting happiness. Box 446382

GOS ROCKERS

Looking for a positive, forward-looking man, I'm 64, slim, 5ft8, attractive, with a good attitude and various interests. Maidstone. Box 451429

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoky, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor. Box 447350

CHOOSE ME!

Happy young fit active 41y old, looking for a girl to treat well and make happy... laid-back, relaxed and happy. Box 884095

NEW TO THE AREA

Warm-hearted, kind, honest, affectionate guy, 43, 5ft10, professional, caring, honest and with GSOH. The female 56 and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Box 451450

FUN AND MAYBE MORE

Hi I'm 37, new to town and would love to meet some genuine companions to socialise with and go out and have some fun. Box 880564

HOMELY SORT

Hi there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a homely woman, with GSOH. The female 56 and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Box 448556

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Chats

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Women seeking women**FUN AND MAYBE MORE**

Hi I'm 37, new to town and would love to meet some genuine companions to socialise with and go out and have some fun. Box 880564

HOMELY SORT

Hi there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a homely woman, with GSOH. The female 56 and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Box 448556

Get Flirting!**Discover**

Just text KOS to 81188
Chats

**MEN seeking women****NOTHING TO LOSE**

Laid-back, attractive single dad, 35, 5ft7, brown eyes, medium build, looking for someone similar to enjoy films, socialising and hopefully love... Box 451286

INTRODUCE US

Hi there! I'm a painter/decorator and I enjoy doing things for charity and seeing the lads. I'm 16, 43, blond hair/blue eyes, 4 children. Box 451519

SIMILAR INTERESTS?

Fun-loving, single guy, 44, blond hair/blue eyes, 5ft10. I enjoy socialising, meals out, having the odd drink, sailing, sport, antiques, cars. Box 451533

LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR?

Hi there, I'm a 44y old gent, 6ft2, easy-on-the-eye, easygoing, a laughing, driving, playing the guitar, WLTM lady, non-smoking, 25-45. Bechill-on-Sea. Box 451369

HERE & NOW

Out-going, single guy, 44, 5ft11, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, looking for someone similar to enjoy films, socialising and hopefully love... Box 451286

EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Down-to-earth sincere and intelligent guy, 36, looking for mature lady for friendship and possibly relationship. Box 451416

LONG TERM THING

Loving, caring, friendly, 55, GSOH, likes travel, watching sport, gardening; seeking non-smoking lady of similar age to share life with. Dover area. Box 451344

ALL NIGHT LONG

I'm a 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair, loves the cinema and beach walks, music, nights in and out, having a good time. Box 451292

CAN YOU PUT UP WITH ME?

Hi all I'm 37, 6ft, blue eyes, brown hair and medium build, great cook and SOH, seeking similar lady to take out. Box 451292

EVERYTHING I DO

Lea, driver, 36y old, 6ft, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, WLTM a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

BUILD ME UP BUTTERCUP

Builder by trade, I'm a 44y old guy, I like cars, TVs, watching football, going out, cosy nights in, cycling, walks. You? Box 448820

BIG DEAL IN DEAL

Warrior, tactile male, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeking like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 883867

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH

Attractive, caring man, 37, very loyal, genuine, kind, laughing, walks, music and more. Box 783954

IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Sincere, 36y old male, self-employed, seeks Miss Right, 30-40, for friendship/romance. Box 483549

IS IT ME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Kind, genuine, down-to-earth male, 47, seeking companion and LTR. 5ft10, cropped hair, blue eyes, stocky with cuddly belly! Hallsworth. Box 449583

TLC ON OFFER

Hastings area; I'm a 47y old guy, 5ft8, slim, into most things in life. WLTM genuine, attractive, loyal woman. I like cuddles, nights in, sport. Box 451367

LIFE'S FOR SHARING

Honest, trustworthy 47y old man. Looking for that someone special to share my romance with and to make me laugh. Box 881277

HEART OF GOLD!

Loyal, honest male, 48, 5'10", medium build, enjoys DIY, gardening, days out, coast, country pubs, coke loving female with similar interests. Box 449372

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TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

Maternity Cover – September 2009

We are looking for a well-qualified and enthusiastic Teacher of Mathematics to join a highly successful Faculty. The person appointed would be required to teach up to A' Level. Maths is a very popular option with students and a high proportion go on to study a Mathematical course in Higher Education.

The person appointed will receive high quality mentoring and support. The Faculty enjoys excellent facilities and equipment.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004; this has led to a broad range of innovative practice across the school and we are looking to develop cross-curricular projects involving Mathematics.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

Application forms and further details are available from the Headteacher's Personal Assistant, Mrs M Tong Ralphs. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of **Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher** no later than

Thursday 21st May 2009

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Resident Involvement Manager
 Based in Sevenoaks and Swanley. Job Ref: KOS/WKE020

Spot Salary £28,520 pa
37 hours a week

West Kent Extra (WKE) is a thriving community development charity based in Sevenoaks and working with communities in west Kent and beyond. We are a subsidiary of West Kent Housing Association, one of the UK's leading housing providers.

The national agenda on resident involvement is changing, with the formation of the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) and a move towards resident-led self-regulation.

We are looking for someone who understands these changes and will work with our staff and tenants to ensure we make positive changes to the way we work.

We have a proud tradition of resident involvement work and this is a great opportunity for you to join an established and successful housing association, as part of our Operational Management Team.

You should have a passion for working with tenants and customers and the drive and commitment to ensure they are able to influence and engage with us, in a positive and productive way.

West Kent Housing Association aims to provide excellent customer service, equality and opportunity for all we house and employ

View our current vacancies online at www.westkent.org



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2 Part time cleaners – 16 hours per week
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 Email: cares@littlebournecarehome.co.uk

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Foster carers wanted

The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay.

Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk

The Caldecott Foundation, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP

Laleham Gap School

Laleham Gap caters for pupils from 3-16 and is the county's leading provision for pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties.

THE FOLLOWING STAFF ARE REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2009

Both Posts will be paid Kent Scheme 3 (£14099 - 15984 pro-rata)

TEMP 1:1 LSA

27.5 hours per week, term time only, between 8.50 am - 3.30 pm Monday – Friday. The role will be working flexibly across all subjects at our secondary school in Margate. An interest/flair for ICT would be an advantage.

RESIDENTIAL CARE WORKER (MATERNITY COVER)

To provide cover for up to one year for 35 hours plus 2 "sleep-in" duties per week during term time. Hours are primarily between 3 - 10 p.m. Duties include planning and supervising activities for groups of residential pupils, preparing some meals and on-call duties when doing sleep-ins. NVQ 3 in Care would be favourable.

We are also keen to speak with people who may be interested in any type of casual/relief work in the school.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the young people in its care and all posts are subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure.

Closing Date is Monday 1 June

Please send a LARGE SAE for an application pack to the address below clearly indicating which post you are interested in.

Debbie Terziyski, Laleham Gap School, Northdown Park Road,

Margate CT9 2TP

E-mail: Debbie.terziyski@laleham-gap.kent.sch.uk

TEMPORARY POSITION REQUIRED FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2009 A 0.4 FTE UPPER KS2 TEACHER (WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS BEING EXTENDED)

A teacher to release the deputy head for 2 days each week. The successful applicant must be committed to high expectations, have a thorough knowledge of the National Curriculum and the Year 6 curriculum. Applicants must be committed to fully contribute to the life of the school.

West Hill is a successful and popular school with well behaved and motivated children. At the heart of the school's philosophy is the development of the whole child.

If you would like to learn more about the school please send for an information pack. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Completed application forms should be forwarded to the headteacher by 8th May 2009.

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The Folkestone Academy

Required for September 2009

TEACHER OF ENGLISH (KS4 Coordinator)

TLR 2B (currently £3,940)

An enthusiastic and dynamic qualified teacher of English is required to join our thriving and successful team. The Folkestone Academy is about to embark on an exciting journey towards becoming Kent's first All Age Academy with students from age 4 – 19.

We are seeking an ambitious teacher with the energy and drive to support the leadership of the English team taking responsibility for Key Stage 4. This is an ideal opportunity for a well qualified teacher to gain experience for future faculty leadership.

Full details and an application form are available on our website www.folkestoneacademy.com
Alternatively, telephone Sally Taylor on 01303 842400

Closing date: Monday 18 May at 5pm
Interviews: Friday 22 May

The Folkestone Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

The Folkestone Academy, Academy Lane,
Folkestone, Kent CT19 5FP • Tel: 01303 842400
Email: admin@folkestoneacademy.com



Domestic Abuse Family Intervention Worker Salary £18,343p.a. (£30,730pro rata)

The Rising Sun Domestic Violence Project Wishes to appoint a Domestic Abuse Family Intervention Worker. Three days a week for a 1 year pilot project funded by the Primary Care Trust (PCT). The successful applicant will work intensively with complex families where Domestic Abuse is the primary presenting issue. Interest in assessment and attachment based work an advantage. Professional qualification required and experience of working with children and families. Own car is essential as the post involves travel within the Canterbury district. Interested applicants can phone for an informal chat. Only women need apply – Exempt under Sex Discrimination Act 1975,7(2)(E)

An enhanced CRB check is required for this post. Applications to be returned by Friday May 15th. Interviews will be held on Friday May 22nd. For an application pack please email: emma@rsdvp.co.uk or telephone Emma on 01227 452852

Project Manager

Committed person with excellent people-skills sought for innovative charity. You will be responsible for our new creative community project in Herne Bay, Kent.

Pro rata £22,500 / initially 3 days part-time (flexible)

For more information see www.peopleunited.org.uk, email info@peopleunited.org.uk or contact Tom Andrews on 01227 470973. Closing date for applications 26 May (noon).

The Folkestone Academy

Required for September 2009

KS2 SPECIALIST TEACHER

Full or Part-time (MPS)

The Academy is embarking on an exciting new journey as we move towards becoming an all-age Academy for ages 4 – 19. For September we are seeking a KS2 teacher to join our successful Foundation Curriculum team. Recently praised by Ofsted, the foundation team work with small classes of 16 students in years 7, 8 & 9 for 50% of the students' timetable in a classroom base equipped using the KS2 model. Foundation teachers deliver English, maths and humanities subjects to one class with the primary aim of raising the ability of students who join us with standards below level 4.

This is an exciting opportunity for a KS2 trained teacher to join our dedicated team of professionals who are committed to caring for and guiding young people and helping them to work towards meeting national levels of expectation in their achievement.

Full details and an application form are available on our website www.folkestoneacademy.com
Alternatively, telephone Sally Taylor on 01303 842400

Closing date: Thursday 14 May 2009 at 5pm
Interviews: Monday 18 May

The Folkestone Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

The Folkestone Academy, Academy Lane,
Folkestone, Kent CT19 5FP • Tel: 01303 842400
Email: admin@folkestoneacademy.com

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If you can't make either of the open days, we'd still like to hear from you. You can apply for either of the positions by calling 01303 774888 for an application form. Alternatively, email your CV to recruitment@directchoice.co.uk or post to Kerry Harrison, HR Officer, Direct Choice, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE. Please quote reference: DC295/KOS.

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02/59

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

US firm picks Kent for its first office abroad

A US-based company which helps businesses prepare bid-winning graphics proposals for Government and defence contracts has chosen Kent for its first UK office.

The 24 Hour Company, helped by Locate in Kent, the investment promotion agency for Kent and Medway, has chosen an office unit at Medway Innovation Centre in Rochester.

It will mean new jobs in the area over the next few years.

Director Colleen Jolly said: "We are really thrilled to be opening our first office outside America. We felt that Kent was the ideal business location due to its transport links to London and Europe."

Paul Wooley, chief executive at Locate in Kent, said: "There is a good level of interest in Kent from US companies. Since 2007, we have helped eight American-based businesses make nearly £1.5m worth of investment in the county."

Women's networking groups on the increase

BUSINESSWOMEN have been flocking to some new networking groups which have sprung up in west Kent over the last few years – and now they're aiming to spread across the rest of the county.

Called 12.30 groups – because that's the time they were originally held – they've become so successful that the first franchise model for them is being piloted.

The pilot franchise is being run by hypnotherapist Mandy Shepherd and Karen Wilkinson, who runs a cleaning firm. They already run groups in Kings Hill and Southborough, and they are opening one in Maidstone on May 20.

Other groups in Dartford, Beckenham, Sevenoaks and Bromley are run by managers.

The idea was launched by Bromley businesswomen Jackie Groundsell and Penny Denby. Details on www.1230.co.uk

Disappointment with Darling as he fails to go for mediator idea

BOSSES of one of the UK's leading business organisations are fuming that Chancellor Alistair Darling didn't take up an idea which they said would help most of the firms in Kent.

More than nine out of 10 county businesses are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – and the area branch of the Federation of Small Businesses has been campaigning for a 'corporate mediator' to help build relations between banks and SMEs.

The FSB, which has 7,000 members in the county, has been saying for some time that the key problems facing SMEs are cash flow worries caused mainly by firms being paid later than usual – and lack of credit when needed from banks.

Debasish Sen, vice-chairman of FSB Kent and Medway, said: "I'm very disappointed that the Chancellor has not even considered the idea of a mediator. A recent poll by the FSB revealed that over 70 per cent of small businesses wish to see a corporate mediator.

"This clearly reflects the frustration that many small businesses are having when trying to talk to their bank. The element of decision making at the bank at local level seems to have gone forever.

"A corporate mediator to resolve these problems would represent both sides in disputes and discussions and de-politicise the whole issue of bank lending. I believe this would re-establish trust between banks and businesses during the recession and guide the economy into recovery."

■ BY TONY PATEY

Chairman Roger House said: "It is high time the Government took some serious action and built bridges between the banks and the small businesses which keep our economy moving.

"The Government has run high-profile PR events aimed at communities suggesting they are coming out to 'meet and listen' where transparently this degenerates into a complete lack of innovative decision-making.

"If we are to come out of this economic crisis we need leadership and new thinking; business it seems could deliver both better than Government.

"The future health of our economy depends on mending the relationship between small business and the banks; small firms and entrepreneurs need confidence to take the risks to innovate, grow and create jobs and take us out of the recession.

"In order to do this, they need to regain their faith in the banking system.

"Small businesses have identified a corporate mediator, one which works similarly to those in France and Belgium, as key to this revival."

They said that an independent go-between, brokering agreement on decisions which are at a stalemate, including bank lending to small firms, should have been included in the Budget – but there wasn't even a mention of it.

Relationships between banks and SMEs have been deteriorating. The FSB's research shows that around a third of small businesses consider their bank to be less helpful than before the downturn.



NO GO-BETWEEN: Alistair Darling ignored company bosses' calls for a mediator for banks and businesses

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FINGERS CROSSED: Geoff Arnold is hoping for a full-time contract at Kent

Bowling coach wants full-time post at Kent

CRICKET

EXPERIENCED bowling coach Geoff Arnold hopes he has done enough with Kent's attack to be given a contract to work with the county's pace bowlers for the whole summer.

The former England fast bowler was released as Surrey's bowling coach at the end of last season and joined Kent as a bowling consultant in pre-season.

The 64-year-old's future at the club will be decided when director of cricket Graham Ford joins up with the Kent squad and Arnold hopes he will be given a chance to continue in the role.

He said: "I want to coach for as long as possible. Although I'm pushing the retirement age I don't want to retire because I feel I have still got a lot to offer the game."

"I am fit enough to do catching and fielding in practice so it's wait and see what Kent want to do really."

Kent's problems with extras last season, particularly no-balls, is something Arnold has been working on trying to eradicate during pre-season.

He said: "It is something we have been looking at, but I always believe it's a self-discipline thing, you have got to hit a mark but some bowlers don't do that and then wonder why they get hit for runs."

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Gills boss Mark Stimson discusses the club's biggest games of the season



KOLPAK RETURN? Wayne Parnell says he is interested in a return to Kent after playing for South Africa in the World Twenty20 tournament in England during June

Parnell leaves door open for St Lawrence return

CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

KENT'S new overseas fast bowler Wayne Parnell could return to the county after playing in the World Twenty20 with South Africa – but as a Kolpak player.

The South African international is expected to be named in the Proteas' side for the Twenty20 competition in England that begins on June 1, with his six-week contract at St Lawrence due to end on May 21.

The World Twenty20 ends with the show-piece final at Lord's on June 21 which, if agreed, would leave Parnell with a window to rejoin the county for the final three months of the season.

The 19-year-old left-arm fast bowler, who took 4-79 and scored a brisk 69 in Kent's first innings in the County Championship against Essex, told this newspaper he would be happy to return to St Lawrence later in the summer.

"I am supposed to leave on May 21 as I'm hoping to make the South Africa World T20 squad later on so it will give me a few days before that

starts," he said. "After that I will reassess where I am. If I do well there is a possibility I will return, but we will have to see. It's a good set-up at Kent with a good bunch of guys with a good mixture of young and experienced players so hopefully I can do well."

Kent's chairman, George Kennedy, said that signing Parnell after the World Twenty20 is over was something the county are looking into.

Although, Rob Key's inclusion in the England's squad for the competition means Kent may have to find an overseas opening batsman to fill in, but Kennedy hopes Parnell could return, potentially as a Kolpak player.

"It's certainly in the pipeline," he said. "The only problem is if we bring in another overseas player once he has gone and we are looking into that for more than one reason. If he did come

back it could be as a Kolpak player, but these things are becoming more complex. On the evidence of one game though, he is the kind of player we want at the club."

Having been watched by Kent's exiled director of cricket, Graham Ford, Parnell was approached by the county with a proposition to join for an initial six-week stint.

The young quick bowler, who made his One-Day International debut in Australia in January, jumped at the chance to play county cricket as a way of preparing for this summer's Twenty20 tournament.

He said: "During the third One-Day International against Australia in South Africa, the club contacted my agent.

"He phoned me after the game to tell me Kent were interested because Stuart Clark had been re-called by the Aussies. With the World T20 being in England it will hopefully give me experience of bowling on these types of wickets."

"I have got to get used to English conditions and the English ball."



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Fledgling club aim for a season of consolidation



CONSOLIDATION: After promotion last season, Ashford Town's 1st XI are hoping to establish themselves in Division One for the new campaign, which begins this weekend

CRICKET

■ BY TOM HOWARD

AFTER suffering the highs of promotion and the lows of relegation, Ashford Town Cricket Club are ready for another season which begins this Saturday.

The club, which was created last year from a merger between Old Stacians Cricket Club and Ashford Cricket Club, had a mixed first season in the Kent Leagues.

The highlight from the campaign was the 1st XI clinching promotion to Kent League Division One by a single point on the last day of the season.

Craig Buckingham's side begin life in Division One this Saturday hosting Orpington, who finished fifth last year.

Cricket manager Chris Senior felt the club did well in their first season, but admitted the 1st XI may take time to settle in their new division.

He said: "On the whole we had a good year last season as it was our first with Old Stacians and Ashford

together. Obviously it was great to see the 1st XI win promotion, but some of the teams struggled. Considering it was our first year it could have been a lot worse."

"I think the 1st XI will be looking for a year of consolidation after the success of last year. We could find it difficult at the start as a number of players are unavailable, but by May and June we should be at full strength and producing the results."

The 3rd XI suffered relegation last season as they finished bottom of Kent League Division Three, without a win all season.

With a young squad growing in confidence, Senior believes the side will have better luck this season. Ashford host Addington this Saturday.

He added: "The players were very young last year, but from the friendly matches we have played so far they look stronger and eager for the season to begin. It was a learning curve for a lot of the players last season and I think we will see better results on the pitch."

However, on the eve of the season, club chairman Graham Linkins announced his resignation last week following a committee meeting.

FOOTBALL



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

UNCERTAINTY: Steve Lovell is desperate to know if he will still be in charge at Ashford Town next season

Lovell left in limbo as Town bosses yet to make key decision

ASHFORD Town boss Steve Lovell admitted he is frustrated at being left in the dark during the uncertain future surrounding the Ryman South club.

Lovell, who took charge at the Homelands last year, guided Town to an eighth-placed finish this season, but missed out on the club's play-off target by 13 points.

With the season over, the Ashford boss revealed he is still in limbo regarding his future at the club, as financial negotiations continue between club co-owners Don Crosbie and Tony Betteridge.

Club chairman Crosbie told Yourashford last month he intends to buy-out co-owner Betteridge to secure the future of the football club and keep Lovell as manager.

However, the club are yet to confirm their future and Lovell is unable to begin his plans for next season. He said: "There is no news on the situation off the field at the club. Until the owners have come to a decision I can't do anything. As far as I am concerned I am still the manager of the football club and I will keep going until I am told otherwise."

"There are a lot of rumours going around, but none of the players have left and we all want to stay together and do well for the club next season. It is frustrating as I can't tie up player contracts or even start looking at potential targets for next season."

Looking back at the season, Lovell refused to blame his side's disappointing end to the Ryman South campaign on the off the field problems at the club.

He added: "Looking back on the season we gave it all and we missed out on promotion, which was slightly disappointing, but overall we have had a good year."

"Off the field problems have dictated the play on the pitch to some extent, but it is unfair to say that was the reason why we failed to achieve what we wanted to. We had injuries at the key times and we started slowly which didn't help."

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Picture: IGOR KUPCO

Tired Ashford fall to late Medway surge

Ashford 11 Medway 32

CLINICAL finishing late on saw Medway sweep a tiring Ashford aside to book their place in the Kent Vase final.

The game was tight until the final 20 minutes as Ashford crumbled against Medway.

The hosts were on top early on and took the lead with a try from Joe Lakin. Colin Chapman dived over just before the break to send the sides in all square.

JJ Murray kick penalties either side of a Rob Ellis try to give Ashford a slender 11-10 lead after an hour. But Medway have made a habit out of finishing strongly this season and they again rose to the occasion.

Tries from Roger Rhynheart and Ellis, the latter converted by Glen Wadsworth gave the visitors a 22-11 lead.

Darren Kistner and Rhynheart rubbed salt into the Ashford wounds with late tries which saw Medway run out comfortable winners.

Taff Gwilliam's team face Old Gravesendians in the final at Aylesford this Sunday in a repeat of last year's final.

Second round failure sees Barham exit in Spain

GOLF

A DISASTROUS second round ended Benn Barham's hopes of making his second cut of the European Tour season at the Open de Espana.

The Ashford golfer has had a disappointing start to the season by making just one cut from six tournaments and was in desperate need of ranking points.

Despite his lack of form going into the event, the Chart Hills golfer produced an opening round of three-under-par. His impressive score was largely helped by an eagle on the par five 15th, but Barham played solid golf and dropped just one shot on the sixth.

Carding a round of 69 left him well placed to make the cut in tied 25th position after day one.

However, the Ashford man's luck turned in the second round and he struggled to find the rhythm on show during the opening round.

After picking up a shot on the first, Barham hit trouble on the sixth, which saw him escape with a bogey. The bad luck continued two holes later as Barham dropped two shots on the ninth.

The back nine proved a tough test and all of the good work put in on the opening day was undone by a succession of bogeys at the 11th, 13th and 16th. Barham exited the 18th with a five-over-par round of 77, which saw him miss the cut by two shots.

Barham will be hoping for better luck at the BMW Italian Open in Torino, which begins on Thursday.



Picture: ADY KERRY

MISSSED CHANCE: A nightmare second round saw Benn Barham miss out on the final two rounds in Spain



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